FBIS-MEA-87-066
Tuesday
7 April 1987
Vol V No 066

Daily Report

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
PRINTED INSIDE COVER

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I. CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II. EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III. SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV. EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V. NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI. LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 APRIL 1987

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian Offensive, Iraqi Raids — Iranian forces captured fresh territory, inflicted over 2,000 casualties, and destroyed 50 Iraqi vehicles in a new offensive launched east of Basra 7 April, IRNA reported. An Iraqi plane was downed over the battlefront and Iranian aircraft bombed Iraqi positions in the area. The new operation, codenamed Karbala'-8, is in response to recent Iraqi attacks on Iranian oil installations in the Persian Gulf, the agency said.

Iraqi planes launched strikes on Iranian oil installations the same morning, according to a 7 April communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The targets were Sirri Island in the southern part of the Gulf and the Cyrus, Nowruz, and Ardeshir oil fields in the north. The communique also claimed that five Iranian boats were sunk while unsuccessfully attempting to approach Al-'Amiq port.

An earlier Iraqi communique had announced raids against similar targets in the Gulf 6 April, stating that Iraqi planes attacked pipelines linking the Ganaveh complex with Khark Island, the Cyrus oil field platform, loading platforms in the Ardeshir oil field, and three boats in the Nowruz oil field area. However, Tehran radio maintained that Iranian air defenses shot down two Iraqi aircraft and prevented the Iraqis from carrying out their missions in the Gulf that day. An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied the Iranian claim, stating that all the Iraqi planes had returned safely after carrying out "destructive strikes."

Arab League View — Commenting on the Arab League Council deliberations on the war, the Iraqi foreign minister said there was "unanimous" agreement on a draft resolution expressing solidarity with Iraq, according to Tunis radio.

Iran

Policy on U.S. — Iran will resume normal relations with Washington as soon as it is sure that the United States no longer poses a threat to the Islamic Revolution, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in a press interview cited by IRNA. Regarding the sale of U.S. arms to Iran, he accused the United States of "irty tricks" in overcharging Iran and funneling the profits to the Nicaraguan contras. The Americans also covertly involved Israel in the deal in order to tarnish Iran's image, he maintained. On the Western hostages in Lebanon, he announced that Iran is still ready to help secure the release of hostages "on humanitarian grounds," although it exercises "no authority" in that country. He also stressed that there would be no need to continue the war with Iraq if the superpowers "make some changes" in the Iraqi leadership.

Release of Egyptians — A Foreign Ministry source disclosed that Iran will release 16 Egyptians suspected of spying for Iraq and hand them over to the Islamic Society of Egypt, IRNA reported. The release of the Egyptian fishermen was in response to appeals from Egyptian clergymen, including Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman and Shaykh Hafiz Salamah.

Egyptian Elections

Early results show a lead for the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), MENA reported 7 April, citing preliminary estimates from the Matruh Governorate. The NDP secretary general had earlier expressed confidence the result would be tantamount to a plebiscite for re-electing President Husni Mubarak, according to the agency. Meanwhile, the interior minister asserted that "only some isolated incidents" had marred the general calm which prevailed throughout the election, Cairo radio reported. Official sources cited by MENA likewise denied opposition charges that the voting was rigged and that opposition party representatives were prevented from entering the voting centers. MENA accused opposition parties of attempting to forge ballots in their favor. In another election development, the information minister maintained that the brief detention of British journalist David Hirst in Banha district was the result of Hirst's failure to obtain official approval for his visit to a polling center, MENA reported.

In contrast to the official view, opposition sources cited by AFP alleged widespread malpractice in favor of the NDP, noting instances of harassment and violence against their candidates. A neo-Wafd Party official described the "fake" election as "the worst" in Egyptian political history. According to Beirut radio, Egyptian "security sources" revealed that security forces were under strict instructions not to allow opposition party representatives into the polling centers.

Sudan

In a speech marking the second anniversary of the overthrow of former President Ja'far Numayri, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi appealed to the SPLA to observe a 2-week cease-fire and to hold talks with the government inside Sudan or in any other neutral country, SUNA reported. Al-Mahdi stressed the need for a peaceful solution of Sudan's problems and he promised that the Islamic laws introduced by Numayri will be completely removed. He also thanked Libya for having given Sudan four MiG-23 aircraft.

The SPLA's clandestine radio broadcast a statement by John Garang the same day in which the SPLA leader stressed that any resumption of dialogue should start from within the framework established by the Koka Dam declaration. In another development, the radio warned international civil airlines against flying over towns controlled by the SPLA because airliners will henceforth be liable to SPLA antiaircraft fire in these areas. An SPLA spokesman cited by the radio explained this is because Sudanese Air Force planes and "other mercenary aircraft assisting the Khartoum Government" have been using international

air routes before branching off near SPLA-controlled towns to execute bombing missions. The SPLA will consider only these military aircraft as its targets, the spokesman said, but a civil airliner could be shot down accidentally, especially now that the SPLA has the capacity to shoot down high-flying aircraft.

Palestinian Affairs

Camps in Beirut — Supply trucks entered Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah 6 April in accordance with the agreement reached the previous day, Beirut radio reported. However, the cease-fire was violated when a Palestinian was killed by sniper fire while unloading supplies in Shatila, AFP noted.

Moscow Visit — A Palestinian delegation comprising representatives of Fatah, the DFLP, and the Palestinian Communist Party was received at the CPSU Central Committee's International Department during a 4-5 April visit to Moscow, TASS noted.

Israel

Peres Tour — Both Jerusalem television and *Ha'aretz* reported that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is planning to meet with a senior Soviet official during his current European tour, which began with his arrival in Madrid 5 April. Members of the Israeli delegation to the Socialist International Convention in Rome stated that the meeting will be with CPSU Central Committee member Karen Brutents, according to *Yedi'ot Aharonot*.

Arab-Israeli Violence — Two Arabs were wounded by shots fired by an Israeli whose vehicle was pelted with stones in East Jerusalem, according to Jerusalem radio.

DRA

"Those who are still in opposition" can take an active part in the discussion about the draft constitution and they can criticize it and present their own proposals, PDPA General Secretary Najibullah stated in remarks broadcast by Kabul radio. The constitutional commission will "carefully study" all views, proposals, and criticisms it receives, Najibullah promised, and it will be willing to hold a "creative and purposeful" dialogue with the opposition in the event of any serious disagreements.

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Arab League Council Meetings in Tunis Continue

'Arafat Appeals for Camps Aid

JN070714 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1807 GMT 6 Apr 87

["Text" of Speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, at the 87th ordinary session of the Arab League Council in Tunis on 4 April — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr Chairman, brother Arab League secretary general, brother ministers and delegation members: This is the second time that we meet with our brother ministers on Tunisian soil to discuss the same topic for which we met in 1985 following the eruption of what regrettably had been termed the Camps War. It seems that the Arab homeland from the Ocean to the Gulf has no place for us. We have thus become a target and our children, women, and relatives have become the target of various types of missiles, shells, and artillery, as if these Palestinian camps in Lebanon had not had their share of sufferings alongside our Lebanese brothers during the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon and the siege imposed on Beirut. [passage omitted]

Fighting in the camps has been continuing since 26 September [1986]. At the time I was with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and we were celebrating the anniversary of the Yemeni revolution. The fierce battle against Al-Rashidiyah camp in southern Lebanon began. Since 26 September, that is, more than 190 days, these camps have been subjected to siege, destruction, and shelling as if those who live in these camps are not human beings. Brothers, 95 percent of the Shatila camp is completely destroyed, 55 percent of Burj al-Barajinah is also completely destroyed, and some 50 percent of Al-Rashidiyah camp is completely destroyed. I would like to tell you also that the Al-Miyah wa Miyah camp was razed to the ground. The forces of the so-called Lebanese Army, the Lahd forces, invaded it and destroyed it with their tractors. There are also four camps which are completely destroyed. They are small population centers. These camps are Abu al-Aswad, Al-Ma'shush, Al-Burghuliyah, and Jull al- Bahr. They were razed to the ground with their inhabitants, which number 18,000 to 20,000 people,

All this is part of the tragedy which is currently being implemented in Lebanon. We constitute this tragedy. They took the land from us and occupied it. This was done by the Zionists. However, this tragedy kept our people united. The catastrophe that is taking place in Lebanon is the fragmentation of the people and the partitioning of the land in preparation for fragmenting our Arab nation. Unfortunately, this is taking place in violation of all that had been greed during Arab conferences. We have warned against all this. I personally warned against it in 1974. [passage omitted]

What is currently taking place in Lebanon is a sectarian war. If we allow it to take root — I am saying this at a responsible meeting on the level of the Arab foreign ministers — then the catastrophe will spread throughout the Arab region in terms of sectarian cantons. These cantons are the keys to the establishment of sectarian statelets in the Arab region. This means that the region will be balkanized.

I would like to ask my brothers the following question: Is it possible that if this sectarian ogre takes root it would not affect any Arab country from the Maghreb to Oman? I say this and ask God to be my witness that I have conveyed the message.

I say this to you because what is taking place is not against the Palestinian people and not against the Lebanese people. It is primarily taking place against our Arab nation.

What are we going to say about the Palestinian camps? First of all I would like to thank my brothers Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and Chedli Klibi for chairing the 7-member committee and for their efforts to save the lives of our women and children. The truth is that I have had enough of talking about this. I have spoken on this at Arab, international, and Islamic conferences. I also spoke about the dangers that are engulfing our Arab nation. I ask God to be my witness that I have conveyed the message. [passage omitted]

My brothers in the Syrian Army entered Lebanon, and for 46 days and until now they strangely say: We have nothing to do with the security of the refugee camps. Does this security which this army announced in West Beirut not include our women? Are our women not their women and our children their children? Is Shatila a settlement in the Golan? I swear that Shatila is in West Beirut and not in the Golan. A massacre was committed in Shatila by the Israelis in 1982 and another massacre was committed in Shatila in 1985. Sabra was stormed and razed to the ground. We have only God left for us, O Arabs. There is no use complaining now. What can we say? Is it possible that children are dying of thirst and starvation while bombs are dropping on them? What is Shatila? It is 400 meters by 300 meters. Can it tolerate tanks surrounding it for 6 months? Despite this, what can we do for those besieged in Shatila? There are 500,000 Palestinians in Lebanon. Yesterday a truck entered the camp, was hit by 8 tanks shells, and a bag of flour fell from it. [passage omitted]

I would like to ask this Arab officer, who stands near and inside the tank and attacks our children, how can his honor allow him to bear an Arab emblem and attack our Arab Palestinian children? I do not ask anything of him. What can I ask of him? Is there something wrong with having the Palestinian race among you? Does this race have to be among you? Find them another place. [passage omitted]

What can I say to my besieged brothers in the camps? Should I say to this military: Congratulations, you can take over the camp, just as Israel stormed it in 1982. I say to them: Congratulations. These are your people and part of your nation. Once again, I apologize for saying this, and I may have overstepped the mark. However, what can I say now to my brothers in the camp whom I will talk with over the radio? Is there a possibility that the Arab League might help? I am going to beg the Arab League. I am going to say to my brothers in Shatila: You promised me that you would try to convince the Arab officers in

Shatila to allow you some water. I will try and influence them to give you a drink of water.

When the Arab League officially asked us to withdraw from Maghdushah to lift the siege and stop the fighting, I offered the withdrawal at the Islamic conference in Kuwait. Brother Lakhder Ibrahimi came to me from Damascus and said: You must withdraw from Sghrayyah to open the road and lift the siege from the camps. I said I will. After half an hour I telephoned him and told him that I will withdraw because the Palestinians do not want to occupy any Arab territory. Therefore, I withdrew.

Brothers, allow me the opportunity to find a place in the world for 500,000 Palestinians — a place for our children away from the killing. The Palestinians have had enough killing from the Israelis. This is impossible. For 45 days and since the entry of the Syrian Army to establish security in Beirut, there has been no security for the camps. There is no security for the Palestinians as long as the militias stay around the camp, for the camps have no security. They said that the Burj al-Barajinah camp is part of the southern suburb. However, what about Shatila, which is in West Beirut? Almost half of you visited me there in Shatila because, as you know, my command was once there. Is it fair for our children to pay the price because my command and that of the PLO was there? I can only thank you and appeal to you for the sake of the Palestinian people, their women and children, who are besieged by an Arab force, which you have funded to confront Israel and not to storm and seize Shatila. Thank you.

Discusses Aid With Cheysson

LD052052 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Claude Cheysson, the European commissioner in charge of Mediterranean policy and the North-South dialogue, who since yesterday has been on an official visit in Tunisia at the invitation of the Tunisian Government, conferred today with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. They discussed EEC efforts to help residents of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and in the occupied territories, and the European stance following the Brussels Statement, which supports an international peace conference for the Middle East.

Meets Kuwaiti, Saudi Ministers

LD062051 Kuwait KUNA in English 2016 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Tunis, April 6 (KUNA) — Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal had talks Monday with Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat at the PLO leader residence. The meeting was attended by the Kuwaiti and Saudi ambassadors to Tunis and a number of PLO officials. A reliable source told KUNA that 'Arafat thanked Kuwait for its support to the Palestinian revolution and the delivery of food and clothes to the besieged Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

The source added that 'Arafat also thanked Sa'ud al-Faysal for the role played by Saudi Arabia and its contacts with the concerned parties to secure the entry of food to the camps. The PLO leader called on the two ministers to attend the Palestine National Council (PNC) meetings scheduled to convene in Algeria on April 20.

Terrorism Conference Endorsed

LD061346 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Tunis, 6 Apr (TAP) — The Arab League Council's Political Committee, which has been holding its 87th session here since Saturday, resumed its discussion of additional topics on its agenda this morning. (Monciff el-Mai), spokesman for the Arab League's Secretariat General, told the press after yesterday's session, which continued late into the night, that the discussions covered the question of an international Middle East peace conference. He pointed out that the drafting committee has been asked to prepare a draft resolution defining the Arab states' position toward the planned gathering on the Middle East.

He added that the committee had also studied the question of UNRWA, and recommended that the Arab countries return to their 1981 level of giving, that is, 73.7 percent of the international contribution to the UNRWA budget. He stressed the international community's responsibility for the issue of Palestinian refugees. As for the attempts in the U.S. Congress to transfer America's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the spokesman pointed out that the meeting's participants confirmed the UN's resolution on this matter.

He also said the Political Committee approved the resolution calling for an international conference to study terrorism and the need to distinguish between terrorism and popular struggles for national causes and the liberation of land. In addition, the Political Committee emphasized that the causes and roots of terrorism must be discussed, and there must be coordination in the activities of the ICO, the Nonaligned Movement, and other peace-loving groups to hold this conference and ensure its success.

Ministers Support Peace Talks

LD061459 Kuwait KUNA in English 1412 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Tunis, April 6 (KUNA) — The Arab League Council Monday supported the idea of holding an international conference on Middle East peace to be attended by all parties to the conflict in the region including the Palestine Liberation Organization. A source close to the Palestinian delegation to the council's session told KUNA Arab foreign ministers meeting here for the third consecutive day agreed that the proposed conference be sponsored by the United Nations and attended by the five permament members of the Security Council.

The ministers agreed to condemn the Camp David accord between Egypt and Israel as well as other forms of unilateral peace moves and attempts to naturalize relations with Israel, the source said. The council contended that maintaining diplomatic, political and economic ties with Israel would be tantamount to encouraging the enemy state to continue its occupation of Arab lands in defiance of the Arab nation's legitimate rights and the world's peace loving countries, the source said.

Egypt which made peace with Israel in 1979 is the only Arab country to have such ties with the Tel Aviv. [sentence as received]

The conference sources, meanwhile, told KUNA that Kuwaiti deputy premier, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left the conference room and talked aside for about 30 minutes before returning to the session. The sources failed to elaborate.

Saudi Minister Addresses Meeting

LD062004 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1727 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Tunis, 6 Apr (SPA) — The Arab League Council concluded its meetings this afternoon. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal delivered a speech expressing his thanks to the delegations for their efforts and for the positive spirit they showed in their discussions. His highness noted that the council adopted a number of important resolutions that demonstrate Arab steadfastness in meeting challenges. His highness stated that the topics examined by the council and the resolutions it adopted point to the nature of the challenges we face, to the gravity of the circumstances in which we find ourselves, and to the burden of trust we bear.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal added that it is natural for these challenges and for this trust to be the destiny of those who belong to a great nation.

His highness explained that the council was able to adopt many significant resolutions, and that he considers this the start of true and honest collective Arab action toward a situation that meets the aspirations and ambitions of our Arab nation.

His royal highness also said that this beginning requires a sense of eagerness and sincerity to implement our council's resolutions and tackle that which hinders and prevents our joint action for the possible betterment and improvement of our adopted resolutions. It will also permit us to complete the discussion of many other subjects to prepare the way for a return to the previous form of Arab solidarity.

His highness expressed his confidence that continued cooperation, the exertion of efforts, and a sincere intention to work honestly will always be sought in this respect, stressing the importance of membership in the ancient Arab family in rising to meet challenges, in shouldering trust, and in discharging obligations.

Session Ends With Resolution

LD061610 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] The proceedings of the 87th Arab League Council session ended this afternoon. The council adopted Resolution No 5 on the Palestinian and Middle East question. It emphasized the continuity of the absolute Arab commitment to the Palestinian people's struggle and their just cause. The council expressed its deep concern over Israel's continued acts of aggression, which endanger the Middle East. The resolution reaffirmed the commitment to the tenets of collective Arab action on the basis of Arab summit resolutions. It also emphasized its rejection of all individual or partial solutions. In addition, it voiced support for the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties concerned on the basis of UN resolutions.

'Responsible' PLO Source on Egyptian Relations

JN031724 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] A responsible PLO source has made the following statement:

We in the PLO have always been eager to preserve our relations with all Arab countries, including the Arab Republic of Egypt, as that strengthens our cause and helps us reach our goals. From this premise, we have always been eager to overcome any differences and contradictions that arise between us and our brothers, for we realize that our march will be difficult or even impossible without the Arab nation. When we held contacts with the Arab Republic of Egypt, we knew they served the goals of our cause, as no one can deny Egypt's prestige, capabilities, and resources. This has been proven during the period of estrangement forced on Egypt. This estrangement has always been the wish of international Zionism and imperialism. Therefore, we were convinced that Egypt's return to the Arab fold was a pan-Arab and [words indistinct].

Despite the Camp David accords, which we rejected and continue to reject, we still take account of Egypt's influence, its importance on the Arab and national levels, and its significant and positive role in all Arab and international affairs. We also give due consideration to its fraternal stand toward the Palestinian people.

On more than one occasion, Egyptian officials have reaffirmed their desire to obtain the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, including that of self-determination and their right to return and establish an independent state of their own. Egyptian officials have also reiterated their support for the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate repesentative. The position taken by the Egyptian Government and people cannot be ignored on any level, particularly their backing of our efforts to attain our rights and see our demands met. However, we blame our Egyptian brothers, as they choose to deal with us through the media and the press. They base their political positions on media reports without finding out the truth, thus making our relations uncomfortable and causing continuous concern. Therefore, we hope our Egyptian brothers will determine the facts before taking any stands. This is very easy to do, especially now that permanent means of communication between us are available.

INTRA-GULF AFFAIRS

Missile Hits Cypriot Tanker Off Khark Island

NC051744 Athens Domestic Service in Greek
1700 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] The Cypriot tanker *Polikon* was hit by a missile at 1000 today while sailing to Khark Island. The tanker was empty at the time of the attack. There were no casualties among the crew, which consisted of 7 Greeks and 25 foreigners. They were rescued by a tugboat that came to the tanker's aid. We have learned from the Ministry of Merchant Marine that efforts are currently being made to put out a fire that broke out aboard the vessel as a result of the attack.

Towed to Iranian Port

NC061607 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek
1500 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] According to maritime circles in Bahrain, the Cypriot supertanker *Polikon*, which has been hit 4 times in the last 16 months by Iraqi aircraft in the Arab Gulf, is expected to be removed from service. In the wake of yesterday's attack, the vessel will be sold and dismantled. The ship was hit by an Exocet missile in this attack. Although there were no casualties among its crew, the supertanker caught fire and suffered serious damage. This fire has finally been extinguished, and the vessel is now being towed to an Iranian port to unload the small quantity of crude oil left aboard. The vessel will then be sold, most likely for scrap metal in view of the fact that any repairs would be extremely costly. The latest repair work undertaken after the third attack against the vessel was only completed last January.

KUWAIT

Diplomatic Ties To Be Established With Cape Verde

LD061212 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued the following statement:

To consolidate the existing friendship and cooperation between the governments and peoples of the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Cape Verde, and in the mutual interest of the two countries, the governments of the Republic of Cape Verde and the State of Kuwait have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level.

OMAN

Sultanate Urges Navigation Rights in Hormuz Strait

JN031507 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] The Sultanate has called on all states to protect freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and warned that it will not stand idly by should there be any threat to freedom of navigation there. At yesterday's meeting of the Indian Ocean Committee, the Sultanate's representative, Yunis ibn 'Ali ibn Rahmah, said the Sultanate has been carefully following the latest reports on threats to navigation in the region. The Sultanate's representative noted that the Sultanate will take all legitimate measures to protect freedom of navigation and to ensure it is not subjected to acts of sabotage.

'Ali ibn Rahmah added that the Sultanate believes greater efforts must be made to declare the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, as long as such a declaration leads to an easing of tension in this part of the world. He stated: All concerned countries must translate this declaration into a firm and realistic position that does not succumb to the objectives of certain states seeking to impose their hegemony on the region. 'Ali ibn Rahmah emphasized that the international committee is capable of drawing up legal and legitimate conventions to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

It is worth noting that the international Indian Ocean Committee is discussing preparations being made for an international conference on the Indian Ocean, which is scheduled to be held in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, next year.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Uruguay

JN061430 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Joint communique issued in Muscat and Montevideo on 6 April establishing diplomatic relations between Oman and Uruguay]

[Text] In order to advance the friendly relations between the governments of the Sultanate of Oman and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, to upgrade cooperation in the best interests of the two countries, to promote world peace in accordance with UN objectives and principles, and with reference to the relevant rules of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations, the governments of the Sultanate of Oman and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay have decided to establish diplomatic ties as of Monday, 6 April 1987.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Cites Accomplishments Since Revolt

JN030920 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 1 Apr 87
pp 20, 21

[Interview with Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, by 'Adnan al-Rashid in Aden; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Rashid] What is the political, economic, and military situation in the PDRY today, more than a year after the bloody 13 January events, on both the government and party levels?

[Al-'Attas] More than a year has passed since the bloody January events. During that period we have been able to face the results of the plot, which really affected all aspects of life in the PDRY.

However, what has been accomplished in various fields during that period is truly a good achievement. The situation has returned to normal. All government bodies and institutions are working. The program of the second year of the third 5-year plan for economic and social development is being implemented. The Supreme People's Council was supposed to debate the program in early 1986, but the debate was postponed as a result of the January events. After the events the People's Council approved the program for 1986 and 1987. The entire plan is now being reviewed so that it can be seen in its final form, and then it will be referred to the forthcoming session of the People's Council. However, the program of the second year of the plan is being implemented satisfactorily following the implementation of the program of the first year, 1986, although it was a year of problems. We have tried to resume work on all projects.

At the party level, all party institutions are now active. Party conferences have been held and all the various party bodies have been reconstituted. The party is now carrying out its role in leading the society in all the political, economic, and social fields. Preparations are now under way to convene the general party conference scheduled to be held in June. The preparedness of security and military institutions has been restored and improved, and they are now working in a better and more integrated manner than prior to the January events. The PDRY's external activity was significant and effective: We met with all brothers and friends to explain what happened on 13 January 1986 and to resume our cooperation with them. All the visits by our delegations to fraternal and friendly countries were very successful and yielded positive results. We also sensed understanding on the part of everyone, for these countries understood that what happened in the PDRY was a purely internal matter. Moreover, the method of overcoming the negative aspects of the January events was speedy and calm, and that hastened the return to a normal situation and the establishment of security and assurance throughout the country. Both brothers and friends admired the speedy return to normalcy. We are continuing our constant efforts to develop the areas of cooperation with all brothers and friends and to increase our participation in all Arab and international forums.

[Al-Rashid] Recently it was reported that sabotage networks were uncovered, and sabotage attempts aimed at undermining the country's stability were foiled. Who stands behind such attempts and supports them?

[Al-'Attas] The masses of our people and our alert security forces guarding the homeland and its citizens have recently succeeded in uncovering sabotage networks and in foiling other sabotage attempts whose objective was to undermine our country's security and stability. Members of some sabotage networks surrendered voluntarily to the authorities and declared they were unhappy with the acts of sabotage they were asked to carry out, and that they pretended to agree to carry out such acts to escape from the camps in the northern part of the homeland. There are others still living in these camps. Members of the networks have been put on trial so that they can receive their just deserts. The most important of these networks was the one uncovered in Abyan Governorate, and the courts have passed sentences on members of these networks. As for those who surrendered to the authorities, they have been released. Members of the sabotage network that was uncovered in Shabwah Governorate are now on trial. They had entered Shabwah in a booby-trapped car with the goal of carrying out an act of sabotage in the governorate.

We are very anxious for security to be established in our country and among our citizens. Our anxiousness stems from our sacred responsibility. We are also anxious to safeguard the peace and security of the region.

The brothers in the northern part have emphasized their full regard for security and their anxiousness not to allow any party in their territory to export acts of sabotage to the southern part. Perhaps the recent attempts and acts of sabotage took place without their knowledge. We hope so and greatly appreciate such an attitude. We on our part have not allowed and will not allow anyone living on our territory to undermine the security of the northern part in view of our common destiny and in accordance with the spirit of the agreements concluded by the two parts of the homeland. There are many tasks facing us to strengthen and achieve Yemeni unity, the hope and destiny of the peoples in the northern and southern parts of the homeland. We must also complete the march of development in our country. In general such actions have had no effect. Our people and security service are very alert. Our people uncover such actions before the authorities uncover them and without being asked to do so, but they do so at their own initiative. Yemen's security is an issue shared with the brothers in the north. [passage omitted]

[Al-Rashid] Recently, there have been reports of several mediation attempts by some parties to effect a reconciliation and initiate a dialogue with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. What is your opinion of these reports?

[Al-'Attas] We always welcome all efforts by brothers to solve the fugitives' problems. Brothers in fraternal Sudan tried last year to facilitate the return of these fugitives. A Sudanese delegation visited us after visiting Sanaa and discussed this issue with us. We presented a number of proposals to them for handling the issue. The Sudanese envoy left our country for Sanaa, but he has not returned. Before leaving Aden, this envoy considered our proposals positive and practical and he conveyed the written proposals to Sanaa, but we have not heard anything from him since he departed Aden. Some papers carried statements in this regard, but I asserted that they were groundless. Then the brothers in Kuwait played a praiseworthy role. They have gotten us used to this by paying a lot of attention to Arab causes, be they small or large. They played such a role at the Harare nonaligned summit conference. There I met with Brother Shaykh Sabah al-ahmad, [Kuwaiti] deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in the presence of Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister of the northern part [of Yemen]. At this meeting, arrangements were made for a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two parts of Yemen in the presence of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad during the 41st UN session to discuss the issue. Regrettably, Brother Dr al-Iryani did not attend this session, and the meeting did not take place.

Kuwait continued its good offices and several contacts were made. We hoped that the fifth Islamic summit conference in Kuwait would be taken advantage of as we, along with Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, participated in this conference. We hoped

that a meeting would be arranged on the sidelines of this conference and in the presence of His Highness brother Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of Kuwait, to continue the dialogue on this issue. But for health reasons, as brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said, he could not attend the Islamic summit, and so this meeting also did not take place.

During the summit in Kuwait we met with Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister of the northern part and head of the YAR delegation to the summit. The brothers in the northern part presented three proposals for dealing with this issue, but following discussions with the brother head of the YAR delegation two proposals were canceled. The remaining proposal provides for dealing with this issue on the basis of the general amnesty decision. It was also agreed to hold meetings in Aden or Sanaa after the fifth Islamic summit. It was agreed that these meetings would be Intra-Yemeni meetings and that Arab brothers could participte in them. Kuwait was the first candidate for participation as a third party at these meetings.

Following our return to Aden, the brothers in Sanaa insisted that Kuwait attend the meetings from the very beginning, and we greatly welcomed this participation. A meeting was held in Ta'izz in the northern part on 8 February, but we were surprised by the oscillating stand of the YAR brothers who tried to rediscuss the points we had already dealt with in previous meetings with them. We feel that the fugitives' return must be in accordance with the bases of the general amnesty decision in addition to providing all required guarantees and all that will secure the returnees' security and freedom. But at the same time we absolutely refuse to discuss any dialogue with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. This is completely rejected, and we emphasized it following the incidents. We cannot hold a dialogue with him because he was finished as a political symbol after he fled Aden.

Later, Brother Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs [title as published], visited us to continue the Ta'izz meeting. We submitted some proposals to him which he conveyed to sanaa. We awaited his return, but he left Sanaa for Kuwait and he might not have received a response there. However, we are still working so that matters will improve as long as we seek the general interest as well as the future and fate of the one Yemen and the Arab nation. We hope that Kuwait's efforts will get good results. As we know, Kuwait, with its wise leadership and its clear, calm policy helps overcome the worst difficulties. In general, our stand in the PDRY is clear and unambiguous, and we welcome the return of all fugitives after the January incidents except for 48 persons who are not included in the general amnesty decision. If these 48 persons want to return home and hand themselves over to the competent authorities, then we will given them all the required guarnatees for a just trial. The judicial authorities would then decide on this issue. [passage omitted]

[Al-Rashid] What were the rsults of the recent visits by PDRY delegations to the USSR, PRC, and India?

[Al-'Attas] Our delegations' visits to these friendly countries produced good results. The brother YSP secretary general's visit to Moscow as successful, enhanced bilateral relations, and constituted a qualitative step in the relationship between the two friendly countries. the USSR constantly assists our people toward progress and supports our development efforts. It also supports our Arab causes. We have close relations of friendship and cooperation with the PRC which supports our development endeavors through the implementation of many projects in our country. The brother prime minister's visit to Beijing was to further enhance this relationship. The PRC has granted us an additional 31 million yuan loan for some projects. As for India, we have good relations with it and we work in agreement with it within the Nonaligned Movement and constantly hold contacts with it to promote bilateral relations.

[Al-Rashid] Will there be diplomatic relations with the United States and the FRG in the near future?

[Al-'Attas] The PDRY extends its hand to all those who respect its sovereignty, security, and independence, who do not interfere in its domestic affairs, and respect our just Arab causes. We have relations with the FRG at the charge d'affaires level, but the U.S. stand on Yemeni and Arab issues does not encourage the establishment of such a relationship. However, this depends on the United States itself. We keep the door open to anybody who wishes to establish relations based on equality and mutual respect and who respects our sovereignty. The U.S. stand on Arab issues is clear. It is always biased toward the Zionist entity. [passage omitted]

[Al-Rashid] When will the PDRY join OPEC and OAPEC?

[Al-'Attas] Oil exploration is taking place and the results are promising for oil and other minerals. We are currently carrying out economic feasibility studies, and the appropriate measures will be taken in light of these studies. We hope that the economic studies will be positive.

[Al-Rashid] What is your opinion of an international conference for the settlement of the Middle East crisis?

[Al-'Attas] We welcome an international conference for the settlement of the Palestinians cause, the crux of the Middle East crisis, on condition that the PLO fully participates in this conference. If this takes place and the conference convenes, it will be a platform for international participation in tackling this issue. Therefore, we support this conference.

[Al-Rashid] Official visits were exchanged between the PDRY and the Sultanate of Oman. What took place on the issue of the demarcation of the borders and bilateral relations in general?

[Al-'Attas] Our relations with fraternal Oman have been faring well since the agreement on principles in Kuwait in 1982. Many visits have been exchanged between the two fraternal countries. We have also established relations at the level of nonresident ambassadors. We hope to open embassies for the two countries in Muscat and Aden soon. Discussion of all bilateral issues is being held in a splendid and cordial manner. An ad hoc committee has been formed for the demarcation of borders which recently met in Aden to discuss this issue. We believe that our relations with Muscat can be further developed.

YSP's Al-Bid Discusses Upcoming Party Congress

For an interview with Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, by Soviet journalists Aleksandr Morashkin and Vladimir Bilakov, in which he discusses the upcoming YSP congress, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 6 April Soviet Union *Daily Report*.

SAUDI ARABIA

Prince 'Abdallah Receives Libyan Emissary

LD041233 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] In his office at the Royal Court today, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy custodian of the two holy mosques, received Dr Muftah al-Usta 'Umar, secretary general of the Libyan People's Congress and personal envoy of Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The Libyan envoy conveyed a verbal message for the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, from his brother Col Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi. The meeting was also attended by 'Abd al-Muhsin ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Suwaydri, adviser to the crown prince, and Mawlud Ramadan, Libyan charge d'affaires in the Kingdom.

YAR

Standing Committee Delegation Leaves for Libya

JN051459 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] The members of a Standing Committee delegation led by Brother Lieutenant Colonel Salih 'Ubad al-Khawlani, under secretary at the Interior Ministry responsible for the administrative units sector and Standing Committee assistant secretary, left for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah this morning. Their visit, scheduled to last several days, is in response to an invitation from the Libyan General People's Congress to attend the sessions of Libya's Basic People's Congresses.

In a statement to the SABA' news agency, Brother al-Khawlani explained that he will deliver a message from Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya's 1 September Revolution, on a number of issues concerning bilateral relations and events in Libya and the Arab world. At the end of his statement, he pointed out that this trip, like others, is part of the growing bonds between the YAR General People's Congress and the General People's Congress of the fraternal Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Mubarak Discusses Elections, Economy, Conference

JN051835 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 4 Apr 87 pp 14-15

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Masa'id, head of the Kuwaiti *Al-Ra'y Al-'Amm* Publishing House — date and place not given]

[Text] [Al-Masa'id] Mr President, we have always known you to be frank and clear in your policy. Does your decision to dissolve the People's Assembly and call new elections mean that the Husni Mubarak era has begun?

[Mubarak] The Husni Mubarak era began on the day he assumed responsibility for this homeland. I assumed this responsibility under circumstances more difficult than anyone can humanly imagine. There were unlimited problems, beginning with the protection of our homeland's very life, the maintenance of its stability, and the strengthening of its unity, culminating in a study of all its problems and the formulation of radical solutions to deal with them. I faced all this.

There is no "button" to push that will solve our problems. We must use our heads. We must think calmly. It is a long, long road. Some people say decisions are made slowly; however, this is not true. We are making deliberate calculations. We have been burdened with many things, including grave legacies from the past. We have been compelled to study them very carefully. We have consulted with many people on them. We are partners in this homeland. I do not believe in having permanent advisors around me who will impose a certain opinion on me. However, I do consult with experts, each one according to his special field. I formulate my own opinion in the end and decide what must be done. This requires a great deal of time and effort. Take our economic problems, for example. You remember that I began to look into these problems by holding an expanded economic conference that included every shade of opinion, from the left to the right. We concluded that there must be carefully thought out plans for the future and a 5-year plan that would enable us to better use our resources and capabilities. This is the plan we are proceeding with today. Our economic situation would have been much worse than it is now had it not been for that plan. Therefore, we assumed responsibility under very difficult circumstances. We did not want this responsibility in the first place. Having received it, we confronted our problems calmly, scientifically, and with vision. These are the hallmarks of the Mubarak era: democracy, development, security, and purity as evidenced by our actions.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, some say that elections also mean cleaning positions from "the centers of power" that once impeded the development of the democratic process and stood against the issuance of some decisions.

[Mubarak] That is absolutely false and I am in no way convinced of it. No one can block the democratic process. There is a dialogue among equals taking place at the party conferences I have attended. I listen to all the opinions expressed and then formulate one of my own. Let me ask: How is democracy being blocked? The democracy Egypt now experiences is new to our country; it never existed, not before the revolution nor at any other time in Egypt's history. There are those in Egypt who unjustly criticize the president, and they can do so without fear. This stems from a fundamental principle; namely, the solid establishment of democracy. This will be the principle followed by my successors. We have formulated and established all the necessary supports and foundations for the future. We take account of the public interest, as well as the consolidation of security and peace for the sons of this homeland. Therefore, no one can impose his opinion on us in any way.

[Al-Masa'id] Why then are the Nasirites not allowed to form a party of their own?

[Mubarak] We have a law for parties that organizes these affairs. This law decides whether the parties' programs conform to the law and states that similar programs should be rejected. Hence, why should a new party be established if programs are similar? In addition, the party law does not permit religious parties. Otherwise, there would be a Christian party and an Islamic one. We would then run into countless problems and people might quarrel over this. This is something intolerable for a developing country like Egypt, which needs everyone to work collectively for its general welfare and for its construction in the long-run. We are not opposed to any given party or trend, but we have our own laws organizing these matters. These laws should be respected, as we are an institutional state in which law prevails and rules equally among all.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, there is not a new Nasirism, but new Nasirites.

[Mubarak] I do not know what Nasirism is.

[Al-Masa'id] The Egyptian newspapers talk about the presence of Nasirites.

[Mubarak] The Egyptian newspapers write what they like, but I do not know what the term "Nasirism" means. I wish they could tell me what it is. I lived through President 'Abd al-Nasir's era, and he was a leader I appreciated. He had many good points but he also had his shortcomings. I also lived through Al-Sadat's era and he, too, had his good points and his bad. But what is a Nasirite party and what is an Al-Sadat party? After Mubarak they may come up with a "Mubarakite" party. We want to be practical and realistic. We should have a more rational view of the future.

[Al-Masa'id] How do you explain the presence of the Muslim Brothers as a party participating in the elections?

[Mubarak] They are not a party. They joined the Labor Party and entered the elections under its banner by circumventing the law. As for us, we deal with reality and with practices. We will watch what happens and then decide what serves the people's welfare. We will act differently toward those who work against the people's welfare.

[Al-Masa'id] Do you think the sectarian sedition that occurred was the result of mere individual actions or were there forces planning it?

[Mubarak] What happened in Egypt and was called sectarian sedition was only isolated events. However, some newspapers, especially party publications, exaggerated them. It is easy to incite simple-minded people. This is what happened in Bani Swayf, Sawhaj, and Asyut. A handful of simple-minded people were incited by some extremists from here and there.

For our part, we contained the crisis. We will not allow anyone to tamper with the destiny of this nation. I have visited the various governorates involved and spoken with Muslim and Christian leaders there. I have determined that these incidents are alien to us and were designed to destabilize the country. However, the problem has been contained by the people themselves. The mass media refer to the matter as sectarian sedition or describe it as a new Lebanonization. All of this is groundless. There have never been such incidents in our history, nor shall there ever be.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, how do you view the next People's Assembly?

[Mubarak] I cannot predict anything here. The elections will express the people's opinion. The people are free to elect whomever they want. I will address the people on Sunday [5 April]. I will explain to them that they must choose whomever they think to be the best candidate without restriction. We live in a time when the people govern themselves by themselves. The people must express their opinion freely in their own interest and for their own future.

[Al-Masa'id] Where is the Egyptian economy heading? Is it over the hurdle?

[Mubarak] The entire world is faced with an economic crisis. Egypt's economic problems may be more difficult, due to the fact that our structure for consumerism has used up great amounts of money as a result of past accumulations. The hand of reform and development has not touched several utilities in 70 years. We could have left these problems for future generations. However, I am not accustomed to doing this. I deal with the roots of problems. For example, there is the problem of Cairo's sewerage, as some parts of the system date back to 1906. There are also problems with telephones, roads, and bridges as well as difficulties in agriculture. Although we are an agricultural country, there has been no development in this sector for years. Were it not for the fact that we have tried to develop agriculture over the past 6 years, we would now be in an unenviable position created by the population increase in the same period.

We had to depend on ourselves. We have recently been able to export rice after years of importing it. At one time we also had to import broad beans; however, we are now self-sufficient in this area.

As for wheat, we cannot attain self-sufficiency in its production. No one can do this. Even the Soviet Union imports wheat. The planting of wheat is one of ratio and proportion. What is the area to be planted and what is the area to be left fallow? What shall we take away and why do we link this with that?

Our economic problem is essentially one of infrastructure. However, what has exhausted us even more is the problem of our military debts to the United States. These debts have come due. They are large and have high rates of interest. We pay $800 million in interest. This is very exhausting and completely unbearable. We hope that the interest rate will drop from 14 percent to 7 percent. This is obviously much better. It will save us $400 million. Anyway, we are trying.

Apart from this, we are diverting all our expenditures to the infrastructure without which we there can be no investment, no food, and no housing. Without it we will not pave the land, which is currently futile, for the coming generations. We are currently preoccupied with the Egyptian people's future. I can tell you that we have reached an agreement with the IMF that will enable us to reschedule our debts and gives us some breathing room in the next development plan. We will also be able to improve our economic situation and get over the current hurdle. Praise be to God, we will do this with the help of our Arab brothers, who have offered us a reasonable amount of aid. I will not identify them so as not to embarrass anyone. They did not hesitate for a moment. When I saw that Egypt was in financial difficulty, I spoke with some of our Arab brothers. The march forward will proceed, God willing. We will repay our debts and solve our problems.

[Al-Masa'id] Has Egypt agreed to the terms of the World Banks?

[Mubarak] We held long, strenuous talks and if we agreed to their basic conditions it would have been difficult to continue the talks to the end. First and foremost, we care for political and social stability, economic reform, and the public interest. We have reached solutions that do not conflict with this. We do not want to lay huge burdens on the shoulders of the people, particularly those with low incomes.

[Al-Masa'id] Do you not think that by its economic pressures or military debts the United States has political purposes in mind, as Mubarak's Egypt did not act as the United States wanted it to?

[Mubarak] What sort of political pressures?

[Al-Masa'id] Political pressures to normalize relations and maintain barriers between the Arab countries and Egypt, in addition to the Islamic reality.

[Mubarak] Relations with our Arab brothers are good. Egypt is an Islamic state and this is clear and well known. Our stand on all these issues is also well known. Neither Israel nor anyone else can force me to accept what I do not want.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, some say Egypt will suspend diplomatic relations with Israel and freeze the Camp David accords if Israel continues to reject a peaceful solution to the Palestinian question.

[Mubarak] If I say this or agree to it, it will be "the opportunity of a lifetime" for Israel. How? Israel will seek the help of the United States, which will support it with all moral and material capabilities and all sorts of weapons. We will then be faced with a serious problem. We want to be realistic, as we have been suffering from the Palestinian question for 40 years. Our problem, we the Arabs, is not that of dealing or not dealing with Israel. The problem lies in our division. Even the PLO is divided. Abu

'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] works and then finds that this is with him and that is against him. Egypt has made superhuman efforts on behalf of the Palestinian question. It is true that Egypt has regained its own land, but it is now working to help restore the Palestinian people's rights. When the United States refused to deal with the PLO, I told the Americans it was difficult to ignore this organization. I said it was imperative to have a dialogue with the PLO. They were convinced.

When Peres came to Egypt, he declared his acceptance of the idea of an international conference. The United States and the USSR are also currently conducting a dialogue about such a conference. The future looks promising. However, it is necessary for us, the Arabs, to reach agreement first. It is difficult for us to go to such an international conference while we are still divided.

[Al-Masa'id] Regarding the international peace conference, the PLO's attendance is conditional on its recognition of Resolution 242.

[Mubarak] The whole world recognizes Resolution 242. I told the organization it could recognize this resolution and at the same time place the controls and voice the reservations it likes so that we can start things moving. However, we will not allow anyone to impose his conditions on us at the international conference.

[Al-Masa'id] Was there any connection between King Husayn's visit and this move?

[Mubarak] We always consult with King Husayn on what can be done on this issue. We also talk with the PLO, particularly on what pertains to Palestinian representation. We are doing what we can to make the best use of time.

[Al-Masa'id] Yitzhaq Shamir has said that Israel will not negotiate with the PLO even if it recognizes Resolution 242 and Israel. Thus, he agrees with Peres on the three no's: no state, no dialogue with the PLO, and no withdrawal to the 1967 borders. Peres also wants the international conference to be an umbrella for direct negotiations.

[Mubarak] To be realistic I would like to stress that at a certain stage there will be direct negotiations, whether we like it or not. Otherwise, how can we solve the problem? Can we solve it with carrier pigeons or through the exchange of envoys and messengers? The United States itself held direct talks with Vietnam. It is what Peres said that is important for us. Listen to what he says, and do not pay much attention to Shamir.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, it is Israel that is rejecting negotiations.

[Mubarak] They agree in principle on holding an international peace conference, provided the PLO's representative participates as part of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Let us admit that first. When the Israelis reject that we will place them before the fait accompli in front of the entire world. Israel cannot defy the entire world; therefore, we do what we should and the rest is up to Israel.

[Al-Masa'id] Israel rejected and protested against the flying of a Palestinian flag over Mena House.

[Mubarak] I do not want to talk about Mena House. Israel came to Mena House with the prior knowledge that the Palestinians would be there. It was we, the Arabs, who wasted the opportunity. The battle on that day was over the Palestinian flag. However, the Palestinians' failure to attend prompted Israel to protest at a later date. If the operation had taken place at that time, the situation would have been much better than it is now, as the conference would have convened, but the Palestinians said no.

[Al-Masa'id] But, Mr President, how can a solution be reached?

[Mubarak] Greater differences among the PLO's parties are not in the interest of the Palestinian question or a solution. Certain forces have contributed to the split within the PLO. However, the PLO is in agreement with Egypt. What is important is that we reach a solution, especially since the PLO is always calling for Egypt's return and stressing its leading role in the issue. Egypt has not been lax in coming to the PLO's aid. I challenge anyone to claim that he has defended the Palestinian cause more than we have. We have made very sharp statements that have angered some forces, but we will not change our minds. As you know, there are divisions within the PLO as a result of interference by certain Arab states. There is only one solution and it is the one I have frequently urged: Let us, the Arabs, sit down together and iron out our differences. Israel will not give us the West Bank and Gaza on a silver platter. Yet we sit here and do nothing. God has given us minds to use. As long as we disagree, the Palestinian cause will continue to be damaged, and our efforts will remain futile. I call on the Arabs to use our relationship with Israel to attain a solution to this problem.

[Al-Masa'id] News agencies have quoted you as saying that Egypt has begun a decisive move to end the camps problem in Lebanon. What are the features of this initiative?

[Mubarak] Yes, we are moving with Arab and foreign countries to resolve this problem. However, this does not mean that we send forces to fight in Lebanon. We have conducted talks with Arab friends and ambassadors in an effort to ensure that prompt action is taken to solve the camps crisis.

[Al-Masa'id] Where is the Iran-Iraq war heading and what are its future prospects?

[Mubarak] In my opinion, the situation there is very alarming. Frankly speaking, if the Arabs could agree among themselves, 50 percent of the Gulf war would be resolved. Our differences only help fan the fires of this conflict. Arab divisions are one of the primary causes of the exacerbation of the war. Iraq is an Arab country and a member of the Arab League. So are Syria and Libya. They once accused Egypt of reneging on the joint Arab defense pact, despite the fact that our relationship with Israel has nothing to do with that agreement. I am not saying this as a call to go and fight. Never. Instead of starting fires, we must act as good mediators to settle this conflict. King Husayn contacted Syria and Iraq. As a result, both were about to meet and the crisis would have been eased. However, the Iranian deputy prime

minister went to Syria and things subsequently came to a standstill. You should explain these matters.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, today the Arab countries have continuous relations with Egypt. These countries admit and commend Egypt's role. What are the reasons that prevent Egypt's return to the Arab fold?

[Mubarak] They are all feeble excuses. Jordan has reestablished its ties with us. The PLO, which is at the heart of the issue, has also reestablished relations with us. What else is required of us? If we resort to logic and reason 90 percent of Arab problems will be solved. Egypt cannot do everything alone, far from the Arab nation. If we were now as one, 99 percent of our troubles would be over. We ask: What happened during Egypt's estrangement from the Arabs? There was fragmentation, disagreement, and countless problems. Egypt has absolutely no designs on any country. We must look to the African countries as an example. They meet once a year to resolve their problems through dialogue and bilateral relations. When will we meet? Will it be after our problems have already been solved? How can our problems be solved if we do not meet? Indeed, a great many of our problems require that we meet. However, there are countries that do not want Egypt to resume its Arab role. Its presence will harm them, for they are benefiting from the current state of affairs. There are countries that live on fragmentation and division, on sparking off wars, and on intimidating certain states. This is dangerous to us.

[Al-Masa'id] Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah's statements have caused a furor in Israel. They even considered them as Egypt's antagonizing of Israel.

[Mubarak] They have distorted Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah's remarks. They did the same thing with another comment about the Russians. They distorted it, added to it, and changed the meaning. The field marshal did not say this.

[Al-Masa'id] Who then is threatening Egypt's national security?

[Mubarak] Arab fragmentation threatens it. Any imbalance in Arab national security has a negative effect on Egypt's security, which is directly linked to other Arab states. We are also affected by the Gulf war. There is no doubt about it.

[Al-Masa'id] Are any political changes expected after the elections?

[Mubarak] First of all, I would like to say that I accept the people's opinion. It is natural for changes to take place. However, there must be domestic stability.

[Al-Masa'id] It has been noted that Egyptian-Soviet relations have recently become warmer, especially since the conclusion of negotiations on rescheduling military debts.

[Mubarak] The Soviet Union is a superpower, and it is certainly not in our interest to assume a hostile attitude toward it. It is more natural for us to have correct relations with all states and to cooperate with each to the greatest possible extent. We have relations with the United States, and we cooperate with it. We have relations with the Soviet Union, and we cooperate with it, too. The Soviet Union must have a say in resolving the Palestinian issue to ensure there will be sufficient guarantees for all parties concerned.

Mubarak Stresses No Tension With Libya

NC061028 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has stressed that there is no tension or hostility between Egypt and Libya. He said: We see no tension in our relations with Libya. If the Libyan leader believes there is tension, that is simply his point of view, but we have no feelings of hostility or tension toward the Libyan people.

President Mubarak added: We care for the Libyan people, as well as their life and freedom, and we hope to see the Libyans live in freedom and democracy, with their future decided by the entire nation and not just a single man. The president made these remarks after casting his vote in the People's Assembly elections today. He was responding to a question about Egyptian-Libyan tension and whether there were any new developments in the case of the two Libyan planes.

As for the two Libyan planes, Mubarak noted: I say to the Libyan president [as received], take your planes, but on the condition that you hand over the three Egyptians in your custody. They are two soldiers and a Bedouin from one of the tribes living near the borders.

Unlike Al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak remarked, I do not like to hijack anyone's planes, nor do I like taking anything that is not ours. On the other hand, if someone comes here and requests political asylum, I cannot turn him away. If Al-Qadhdhafi can convince any Libyan to go back, that is Libya's own business.

When President Mubarak was asked about his expected meeting with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and whether he would mediate between Sudan and Ethiopia, he responded: This will be the Ethiopian president's first visit to Egypt and we will obviously discuss bilateral relations and regional issues. Naturally, Sudan will be examined as well.

Mubarak Addresses Nation on Eve of Elections

NC051510 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has described the parliamentary elections that will take place tomorrow, Monday, as representing a decisive day in the progression of democratic life in Egypt. In these elections, he said, the country's millions of citizens will decide who is to represent them in the formulation of Egypt's present and future.

In an address to the nation to mark the occasion, President Mubarak stated that the people will impose their will and raise their voice in support of Egypt's stability and in defense of the great accomplishments achieved under conditions of stability, the rule of law, and the citizen's freedom, security, and safety.

The following is the text of the message the president addressed to citizens today on the eve of the People's Assembly elections, which are scheduled to begin tomorrow throughout Egypt:

Brother citizens, the election debates, with all their accompanying commotion, noise, rivalry, and conflicts, ended today. We will go to the election committee centers tomorrow, where each of us will cast his vote and freely elect whomever he considers to be the best candidate to represent the people in the People's Assembly. Tomorrow is a decisive day in the progression of our democratic life. Egypt's millions will decide who is to represent them in determining Egypt's present and future.

The will of the people will reign supreme and raise its voice in support of Egypt's stability and in defense of the great accomplishments achieved through this stability under conditions dominated by the rule of law and the citizen's freedom, safety, and security.

It is the responsibility of every Egyptian before God, the homeland, and his conscience not to neglect his national duty by failing to cast his vote.

To vote for the best and most desirable candidate is democratic participation in action. It allows citizens to take part in making the decisions that shape our destiny and the steps we should take to build our future. Our national responsibility makes it incumbent upon us to work and to achieve that which will protect the interests of every Egyptian and lighten the burden on those with low incomes. In this way we can ensure social security and establish stability for all citizens and for the Egyptian people from east to west.

You are accustomed to hearing me speak frankly, tell the truth, and dot all the "i's" and cross all the "t's." We gain nothing from hiding the truth from the people. They have a primary right to their existence and destiny. Our only goal is to go forward along a road of construction and achievement until every citizen enjoys his right to a dignified life.

I regret to say that I have heard a few slogans repeated during the campaign that claim to be able to shake stability in this country. These slogans reveal the true intentions of those who espouse them and declare their goal to harm this stability. They present their dreams to the masses and reveal their ambitions to achieve everything that would lead the country into dark labyrinths, sick fantasies, and illusions that only exist in the minds of their creators.

Today I offer a sincere word and open my heart to every Egyptian man and woman. I tell you in all faith and from the bottom of my heart that stability is the factor for Egypt's present and future success.

Stability now, tomorrow, and forever is the shield and the fortress that improves the life of every citizen and protects him against the isolated calls and adventurism of those who are blinded by false illusions and thoughtless political ambitions. Such people are unable to see the truth associated with their country's security, stability, and prosperity. Stability means life to us. It means guaranteeing life for our sons. It is the fundamental prop to ensure accomplishments, production, and increased revenues. It is a guarantee that everyone will receive what he is entitled to receive.

Stability means the building of factories, schools, and hospitals. Stability means more production and more job opportunities.

Stability means a successful invasion of the desert and our ability to catch up with the age of modern technology. Stability provides a safe guarantee for our youth to build their future and to be able to realize their legitimate aspirations for a better and a safer life.

Any call to undermine stability is a call for destruction and backwardness. It is a call for regression. Therefore, I appeal to you in all confidence to go to the ballot boxes tomorrow and cast your votes in complete freedom and safety.

I call upon every male and female citizen to exercise their election right. In this regard I am neither biased nor do I side with anyone other than Egypt itself — the Egypt of the future, the mother of us all, and our sublime commitment.

Your vote, dear citizen, means support for stability. Your vote means the protection of this stability. Your vote means that secure and stable Egypt will remain secure and stable.

In my statement to you after the issuance of the decision to hold elections, I told you that your vote is the vote of Egypt. We do not want the vote of Egypt to be bought or sold.

I tell you today that I am fully confident there is no one in the land of Egypt who will offer this vote in the marketplace.

Egypt is a country of honorable people, and its vote will be nothing but the vote of honorable people. Egypt is the land of glory and dignity, and its vote will be nothing other than a vote of glory and dignity. It will be a vote cast by Egypt's honest work and civilized accomplishments. It will be the vote of a serious and productive Egypt that is kind to all its sons. It is the vote of an Egypt known for its steadfastness, loftiness, and firm national unity.

The voice of Egypt will echo with right and sincerity tomorrow, God willing. One flag will fly. This is the flag of security, faith, safety, and stability. May God grant you success. God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Activities, Incidents Mark National Elections

GUARDIAN Correspondent Arrested

NC061143 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] NPUG sources in Egypt have announced that the police arrested David Hirst, a correspondent for the British paper *The Guardian*, today for writing a piece on the police's attack on NPUG members.

Correspondent Released

NC061628 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA) — According to a MENA correspondent in the city of Banha, situated 50 km from Cairo, David Hirst, a reporter for the British newspaper *The Guardian*, was arrested as he was monitoring the voting in the People's Assembly elections in the village of (Qahlah) in Banha District. He did not have a permit to visit polling centers.

Khalid Muhyy al-Din, NPUG leader and a candidate running for an individual seat in one of the constituencies, intervened with officials to contain the incident. As a result of his intercession, the interior minister ordered the release of the British reporter and said his assignment to follow the elections was to be facilitated.

Minister Views Detention

NC061728 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1652 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA) — Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has denied certain news agency reports that David Hirst, a correspondent for the British newspaper *The Guardian*, was arrested as he was covering today's elections for the new People's Assembly in Egypt. The minister stated that Hirst had been detained for a short period, but was later released after he was identified.

In a statement to MENA, Al-Sharif emphasized that foreign correspondents in Egypt enjoy complete freedom to cover the election process after first notifying the Public Information Authority's press center, which is responsible for organizing and facilitating the reporters' job. Al-Sharif noted that such a system is in effect in all countries. It is the Information Authority that is responsible for ensuring the security and freedom of movement of correspondents.

The Egyptian information minister explained that David Hirst did not abide by these instructions. This was why he was briefly detained. The minister noted that there are approximately 300 foreign correspondents in Egypt to cover today's elections throughout the republic. Their freedom is fully guaranteed, he affirmed, and no incidents affecting this have taken place.

NDP Attack on Center Denied

NC061706 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA) — An official Egyptian source has denied reports carried by certain foreign news agencies that NDP supporters have attacked a polling center. The source also denied that a number of people have been wounded or that two have been killed, one in Kafr al-Shaykh Governorate and the other in Al-Qalyubiyah.

These reports are incorrect, the source asserted. He said that news agencies obtained this information from opposition sources in the NPUG, the Socialist Labor Party, and the New Wafd Party.

Any violation of the law would immediately be reported in detail by the Ministry of Interior, the source added.

It has not been established that the NDP has committed any violation, the source affirmed. However, it is known that a relative of one NPUG candidate was responsible for several violations in the city of Shibin al-Qanatir. No reports of any casualties or damage have been received. Meanwhile, members of the Socialist Labor Party have acted irresponsibly and attacked a polling center in the village of Al-Za'faranah. [passage omitted]

Injuries, Arrests Reported

NC070650 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Well over 60 people were injured and hundreds of others arrested as the Egyptian people cast their ballots yesterday to elect a new People's Assembly. While security forces prevented all representatives of the opposition parties from going into the polling centers to participate in the supervision of the voting, they allowed NDP representatives to enter. Security sources, who said they preferred to remain anonymous, have stated that the security forces were under strict instructions not to allow opposition party representatives into the polling places. [passage omitted]

Opposition Protests 'Pressure'

NC061758 Paris AFP in English 1724 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, April 6 (AFP) — Daylong national elections for the early renewal of the People's Assembly ended at 5 p.m. local time (1500 GMT) amid confirmation that several hundred Moslem extremists connected with the Moslem Brotherhood had been arrested.

Some 15 million voters were eligible to vote in nearly 22,000 polling booths.

The People's Assembly has 458 deputies, 448 of whom are elected and 10 others appointed by the president. One of the assembly's main duties is to designate a single presidential candidate who is then chosen by plebisicite.

President Husni Mubarak's term in office ends next October.

Previous legislative elections in 1984 were won by the (ruling) National Democratic Party with 390 out of the 448 seats, and by the Neo-Wafd (right-wing liberal opposition) Party, with 58 seats.

The turnout for the ballot remained small Monday afternoon in Cairo and Alexandria, the country's two main cities, it was reported an hour before voting was officially closed.

In two polling booths visited in Al-Jizah, south of Cairo, 70 voters out of 516 registered, and 170 out of 700 registered had cast their ballots. At Al-Sayyidah Zaynab, in the center of the capital, 33 percent of the registered voters showed up according to the

Interior Ministry, while the opposition set the figure at 20 percent.

During previous legislative elections in 1984, the abstention rate, especially in big cities, was very high.

Various opposition parties agreed that pressure had been exerted on their candidates or representatives throughout the country. They said their delegates were not allowed to enter polling booths and, in some cases, booths were shut before closing time for reasons such as that all registered voters had cast their ballots.

Western correspondents observed that committees appointed to ensure voting regularity were incomplete in certain polling stations. Interior Ministry officials questioned about the committees said this was because party delegates and individual (non-party) candidates were absent.

Names of these committee members have been drawn at random from party candidates and individual candidates standing for elections Monday. During previous elections, only party candidates had been allowed to sit on the committees.

The spokesman for the Moslem Brotherhood, whose candidates ran with those of two opposition parties, since the Brotherhood is deprived of legal status and cannot stand on its own at elections, said the regime had paralyzed elections by arresting 2,000 Brotherhood militants.

The semi-official newspaper *Al-Ahram* reported Monday that 500 "religious extremists" allegedly preparing to foment trouble had been arrested.

The Moslem Brotherhood said it would win about 20 seats in the new assembly out of 448 elected seats, owing to the rise in Islamic fundamentalist influence in Egypt. There were 10 Moslem Brotherhood deputies in the previous assembly.

The secretary-general of the main Neo-Wafd opposition party, Ibrahim Faraj, said these elections were "the worst in all of Egyptian political history. Opposition representatives were not allowed on polling premises. This is fake democracy. The government acted this way because it felt that opposition parties have strengthened."

An official of the Socialist Action Party, which is hosting Moslem Brotherhood runners-up for seats in the new assembly, said delegates from his three-party alliance had suffered "harassment" throughout the country and in many cases had been expelled or assaulted.

At headquarters of the Patriotic Unionist Progressive Rally, spokesmen said two of their delegates and another from the Socialist Action Party had been beaten and seriously injrued in the area of Sawhaj, 500 km (300 miles) south of Cairo. According to the rally, all opposition parties signed a petition to announce their withdrawal from the vote as a result of the incidents.

Touring with the rally's secretary general, Khalid Muhyi al-Din, in the region of Banha (30 miles north of Cairo), David Hirst, correspondent of the London daily *Guardian*, was held by police as he was about to visit two villages where he was told police had molested two of the rally's militants. He was released two hours later.

The national vote's results will only be known Wednesday or Thursday.

To obtain seats in the assembly, parties need to win at least 8 precent of the natinal vote, even if they win the majoirty in a district. Individual (nonparty) candidates split the vote equally in a particular district, another poll scheduled next week (April 12) will determine the winner.

Violence, Rigging Denied

NC061907 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA) — An official Egyptian source has denied reports that certain foreign news agencies have attributed to leaders of Egypt's opposition parties alleging that acts of violence took place in today's elections. According to these reports, one person has been killed and others wounded, and hundreds of people have been arrested in villages in the Delta and Upper Egypt as a result.

This source also refuted charges, again ascribed to opposition leaders, that the voting was rigged. The source noted that such charges indicate that some people fear they have failed to win the voters' confidence.

Contrary to the allegations attributed to leaders of Egypt's opposition parties, the source emphasized that no representative from any party was excluded or prevented from entering the voting committee centers.

Cairo on 'Isolated Incidents'

NC061955 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly elections concluded at 1700 today. Interior Minister Zaki Badr noted that the elections opened at 0800 under the supervision of members of the various judicial bodies and chairmen of the polling centers. A number of candidates have complained about the electoral procedures, and the chairmen of the primary polling centers are in the process of studying them, he added.

Minister Badr affirmed that a state of calm prevailed at all the polling centers throughout the republic's governorates. There were only some isolated incidents, including an attack on the Al-Za'afaranah village center in Kafr al-Shaykh Governorate, as well as attacks on three centers in the village of Al-Shamun in Bilqas district, and two other centers in the Billqas district of Al-Daqahliyah Governorate.

Minister Badr noted that another attack had taken place against the Tahalub village center in the Shibin al-Qanatir district of Al-Qalyubiyah Governorate, as well as on three centers in the village of Samul in the Al-Mahallah district of Al-Gharbiyah Governorate. Opposition party supporters in those areas dam-

aged a number of ballot boxes. The appropriate authorities have begun to investigate these incidents.

Disputes also occurred among the supporters of various candidates at a limited number of polling centers. Minor injuries were reported, but absolutely no deaths. The authorities immediately begun their investigation into these incidents.

The polling centers have received all of the ballot boxes, and the counting of votes has begun. Reports will be sent to the Interior Ministry's operations room, which will then announce the results as they become available. [passage omitted]

Opposition 'Forging' Ballots

NC062131 Cairo MENA in English 2115 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, April 6 (MENA) — MENA correspondents in various governorates reported, after the end of the elections at all polling stations tonight, that general ballot casting took place throughout the day properly, with the exception of some minor incidents which were brought under control and reported to the prosecution which undertook investigation.

In Bani Suwayf, while the head of the Al-Wastah polling station was touring the headquarters of the station, he caught inside it some persons forging the ballots in favour of the Labour Party and its allies Muslim Brotherhood and Liberals Party. The ballot papers were seized and the prosecution is now investigating the incident.

In Al-Daqahliyah's city of Al-Manzilah, a number of citizens were caught red-handed forging the ballot papers in favour of the individual candidate of the Labour Party and were referred to the prosecution which ordered that two of them be held in custody pending investigation.

In Kafr al-Shaykh, a group of Labour Party members and their allies stormed a polling station and set the building and [words indistinct] on fire after burning the ballot boxes. Security bodies intervened and fire brigade put out the fire, while six persons were arrested.

MENA correspondents carried similar reports from other areas.

Wali: Elections Favor Mubarak

NC062142 Cairo MENA in English 2112 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, April 6 (MENA) — Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy premier and secretary-general of the ruling National Democratic Party, (NDP), said reports of the NDP Secretariats in the governorates of Egypt showed today's general elections ending without unrest, with the exception, however, of some simple incidents.

He was referring to incidents in the Delta's Shibin al-Qanatir area and Al-Za'faranah area of Kafr al-Shaykh, also a Delta governorate, which he said were brought under immediate control without any damage.

Dr Wali, while giving a statement to MENA, said today's elections are tantamount to a plebiscite on re-electing President Husni Mubarak as president of the republic for a new term next October.

"These elections will go down into the annals of history as pure elections made under President Mubarak," he said, also pointing out that elections were free from interference.

Early Results: NDP Leading

NC070506 Cairo MENA in English 2250 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, April 6 (MENA) — Early election results show a lead of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) over the other parties as its list for the west desert city of Marsa Matruh, of the Governorate of Matruh on the border with Libya, secured the highest rate of votes sorted so far.

The NDP list for Burj al-'Arab polling station, where sorting has been completed, got 1626 votes, followed by 303 votes for the opposition Wafd party and 6 votes only for the opposition Socialist Labor Party, which ran for the elections in an alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood and the opposition Liberal Party.

Early Matruh individual seat results indicate the NDP candidate has won.

On the 448 seats of the People's Assembly, 400 seats are allotted for parties under the election by list system, and 48 seats are allocated for candidates running on an individual basis for the 48 constituencies of Egypt under the dual list individual election system.

Military Reports Combat Operations for 5-7 Apr

Communique No 2,629

JN061817 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,629 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces have pursued their heroic combat activities in defense of the homeland's sovereignty. They carry out more heroic combat actions each day, inflicting new losses on the Zionized, Khomeyniite regime. The roundup of their activities for last night and today is as follows:

1. With God's help and our men's determination, our forces in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah continued their combat activities, inflicting death on the remnants of the charlatans and destruction on their equipment and military hardware, achieving the following: 11 positions of various types were destroyed and their occupants were either killed or wounded; 4 shovels [preceding word in English] were destroyed and another was damaged; 6 vehicles of various types were destroyed; 4 enemy troopers were killed; 1 SPG-9 gun was destroyed; 6 ammunition dumps were destroyed; and a medium machine gun was destroyed.

2. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector brought enemy units opposite them under heavy fire while others carried out daring combat activities, inflicting further losses on the enemy, paralyzing its engineering works, destroying four positions of various types and three shovels, damaging a shovel, and blowing up several ammunition dumps.

3. Our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan opened fire on an enemy group, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers and destroying two observation posts.

4. The forces of the Zionized, Khomeyniite regime shelled residential areas in steadfast Basra with long-range artillery, damaging some civilian houmes and other property.

5. Several Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forward units and were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 April 1987

Communique No 2,630

JN071137 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Comunique No 2,630 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God wants us to enjoy continuous grace and to bring the victory of right over falsehood to the land of sanctities. Falsehood is doomed. We thank God, for He grants us faith and instills in us the heroic deeds of our forefathers. While you celebrate the anniversary of your party, Iraqis, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the creator of the gigantic revolution that has had great achievements and victories under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, your Armed Forces on land, at sea, and in the air are achieving glorious victories, crushing the scoundrels of the anti-Arab, Khomeyniite clique, destroying its vital installations, and standing as a lofty edifice to defend the land of Arabism, which God has blessed. The following was achieved:

1. As usual, your Air Force brings you good tidings which delight our people and their leader on their national and pan-Arab anniversaries. On this blessed day, your gigantic Air Force carried out the following missions:

a. At 1025 today, the planes of our gigantic Air Force staged a violent raid on Sirri Island, dealt destructive blows to its oil installations, causing explosions that destroyed the targets.

b. At 0905 today, our planes raided the Cyrus oil field, causing explosions.

c. At 0908 today, other planes carried out a successful strike on the Nowruz oil field, scoring direct hits.

d. At 0908 our planes raided the loading platforms of the Ardeshir oil field, causing further destruction.

After carrying out all these missions, the hawks of the air returned glorious and happy with their victory, carrying good tidings to the great people. Blessed be our Air Force, commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks.

2. The hateful enemy attempted to send out 15 vessels yesterday in an unsuccessful attempt to approach the port of Al-'Amiq. The port's brave force and our valiant naval units confronted it and sank five boats together with their scoundrels. The others fled.

Glory to the brave men of our Navy, commanders, officers, and other ranks. God be praised, for He is the helper of believers. Happy anniversary to our Iraq under the banners of the great leader, may God protect him.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 April 1987

Denies 2 Planes Downed

JN061302 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA) — Iraq has denied Iranian claims about the downing of two Iraqi planes today. An Iraqi military spokesman told INA that all the Iraqi fighter planes that carried out destructive raids on Iranian oil installations and vital and economic targets linked to the war effort have returned safely to base. The spokesman described the Iranian allegations as part of the Iranian regime's continued lies.

Iranian Offensive 'Foiled'

JN071056 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1037 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Apr (INA) -- The Iraqi Armed Forces have foiled an Iranian offensive against the Al-Muthanna forces east of Al-Asmak Lake, and against the Muhammad al-Qasim forces south of the Al-Asmak Lake east of the city of Basra in southern Iraq.

An INA military correspondent said that the Iraqi forces inflicted heavy losses in men and materiel on the Iranian forces and captured large numbers of Iranian enemy personnel. The correspondent stressed that Iranian casualties are estimated to be in the thousands, as well as the destruction of the Al-Ghadir Brigade of the Khomeyni Guard and the 21st Brigade of the Khomeyni Guard.

The correspondent pointed out that the Iraqi forces are continuing to chase the Iranians, who fled before the strong advance of the Iraqis and the intensified fire which they directed at the aggressor Iranians.

The correspondent noted that the Iranian offensive began at 0300 today [2300 GMT on 6 April], and that the Iraqi forces managed to besiege the aggressors and destroy them in record time.

Saddam Husayn Decorates Field Commanders

JN051450 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has said that the conspiracy of aggression against Iraq is aimed at the entire Arab nation. Speaking during a ceremony in which a number of field commanders were decorated with medals for valor and Al-Rafidayn orders, his excellency said that when Iraq alone faces a conspiracy designed to hurt the entire Arab nation, and with its own capabilities emerges victorious, then the men's share from the honor of this confrontation should be commensurate with the difficulties imposed on them. He affirmed that it would be difficult for any Arab country or the Arab nation to experience Iraq's test during a short period of time without harming the Arab nation and placing it in a difficult position.

Addressing the field commanders, President Saddam Husayn said: These medals are for merit, before yourfamilies and people. However, the most important thing is what history will write about you. The honor of men cannot be measured by the traditional standards which we inherited from our fathers and grandfathers, but by passing the test and emerging victorious. His excellency indictated that history will record for the righteous men what we all cherish and believe is worthy of true believers who faithfully fought and defended their principles.

The officers decorated were: Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Sattar al-Ma'ini, deputy Army chief of staff for administration and supplies, medal for valor; Staff Lt Gen Diya' al-Din Jamal, III Army Corps commander, medal for valor; Staff Lt Gen Shawkat Ahmad 'Ata, II Army Corps commander, the Al-Rafidayn Medal of the Military Order, Third Class, and a medal for valor; Staff Major General Husayn Rashid Muhammad, commander of the Al-Faris Forces, medal for valor; Air Force Staff Maj Gen Al-Hakam Hasan 'Ali, commander of the Army helicopter gunships corps, medal for valor; Navy Staff Major General 'Abid Muhammad 'Abdallah, commander of the naval forces and coastal defense, medal for valor.

The ceremony was also attended by General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Ba'th Party Regional Command member; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Ahmad Husayn, head of the presidential office; and members of the Armed Forces General Command.

'Aziz Returns From Arab League's 87th Session

JN061921 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad this evening after leading the Iraqi delegation to the Arab League Council's 87th session in Tunis.

Al-'Amiri, Delegation Return From Brazil 4 Apr

JN040800 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA) — Hasan 'Ali al-'Amiri, RCC member and trade minister, along with the members of his delegation, returned to Baghdad early this morning after leading the Iraqi side to the meetings of the sixth session of the joint Iraqi-Brazilian committee, which has ended in Brasilia.

In a statement to INA, the Iraqi official said the meetings resulted in the signing of joint minutes on strengthening and developing cooperation between the two countries in trade, projects, and services, as well as on expanding scientific, technical, and cultural collaboration and increasing training opportunities. He added that a number of trade contracts were signed on exporting goods to Iraq.

Al-'Amiri noted that he met with the Brazilian foreign, trade, finance, and energy ministers and discussed bilateral relations and joint cooperation. He affirmed the visit will contribute to developing and reinforcing friendship and trade between Iraq and Brazil.

King Husayn Cables PRC Leader on Anniversary

JN061610 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today sent a cable to His Excellency PRC President Li Xiannian on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the PRC and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In his cable, his majesty expressed in his own name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government, his satisfaction with the progress of our continuously developing bilateral relations. His majesty said: My visits to your great country and your excellency's visit to Jordan 3 years ago have had a tremendous impact on bolstering these ties, which are an extension of the firm and historic friendship between the Chinese and Arab nations. His majesty had high praise for the PRC's firm stand in support of our just Arab causes, especially the Palestinian question. His majesty affirmed that an international peace conference attended by the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict is the appropriate framework to resolve the fundamental questions of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said the PRC's participation and support will have much appreciated positive effects. His majesty urged the PRC to back Arab and international efforts to bring about an immediate halt to the Iraq-Iran war. His majesty said he hopes the PRC will continue to use its international status to pressure Iran to respond to calls for peace and halt its aggression against Iraq. His majesty also expressed his wish that the PRC continue its effective role in promoting the causes of justice and peace to achieve a balanced international economic and political system.

Husayn Visits the Netherlands, Meets Lubbers

For reportage on King Husayn's visit to the Netherlands, including his meeting with Prime Minister Rudd Lubbers, see the Benelux section of the 6 April Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Foreign Minister Al-Masri Discusses Summit, PLO

JN060812 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Apr 87 p 5

[By Ahmad Nafi']

[Text] Amman — Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri will leave Amman for Washington tomorrow to probe the U.S. stand on an international Middle East peace conference, an issue on which UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is conducting unofficial consultations with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Tahir al-Masri spoke to *Al-Ahram* on Jordan's concept of an international conference and the parties that will participate in it. He said that the views of Egypt and Jordan are largely similar with respect to their call for the convocation of a true international conference under UN auspices. The invitations to this gathering will be extended by the UN secretary general and the conference will be attended, in addition to the five great powers, by the other parties concerned in the conflict. Al-Masri said: These are Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, the PLO, and Israel. The reason why the conference is being called for in this form is that if it were convened under the auspices of the two superpowers, the United States and the USSR, or attended only by them, it would increase the polarization and conflict between them in the region and at the international conference itself. This would further complicate matters and hamper any progress in the talks. But the presence of other countries such as the PRC, France, and the United Kingdom will at least reduce the level of polarization and will give these three states a greater role in making the conference a success rather than if it were restricted to the two superpowers. The reason why the other parties must participate is known and clear.

The Jordanian foreign minister defined the stands of the countries and the parties as follows: With respect to Jordan, he believes that the conference should convene to implement UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Resolution 242 is based on international legitimacy, as it is the only binding resolution issued by the UN Security Council, unlike the recommendations issued by the UN General Assembly. Resolution 242 is also the only resolution passed unanimously by the UN Security Council, including the big powers. This gives it a force not enjoyed by any other resolution, in addition to the fact that this resolution rules out the forcible seizure of land and calls for a withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

When we say we want to attend an international conference to implement this resolution, we are really asking the conference to discuss the withdrawal and its arrangements as wel as the modalities for peace. This is our concept of the conference. It must convene to implement Resolution 242. Our stand is identical to that of Egypt on this resolution, which was issued in November 1967, given the fact that it is the basis for settling the Middle East crisis.

With respect to the United States and Israel, they recently accepted that the conference should convene on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338. However, Israel's understanding of the question of withdrawal differs from that of the Arabs. Israel, as yet, has not succeeded in defining where and when the withdrawal will occur. The United States and Israel now agree to the principle of holding an international conference. But they want it to lead to direct negotiations immediately. In their view, the conference should convene formally for a short period, after which the delegations will start direct negotiations. This is something Jordan cannot accept. That is why Jordan's efforts with the United States do not currently focus on the principle of convening the international conference but on its nature and role.

Continuing his discussion of stands, Tahir al-Masri said that the USSR, for example, had clearly [supported] the same provisions contained in Resolution 242 as being the solution to the problem without referring to the resolution by name. This becomes clear when we refer to Brezhnev's initiative. As for Syria, which is another Arab party, its officially continues to reject Resolution 242. Some say this is not Syria's true position, which it cannot currently declare, and that it will do so later. As for the PLO, its position is known. It accepts Resolution 242 if other conditions are available, including abidance by specific UN resolutions and the right to self- determination. The PLO will also accept a

comprehensive deal based on Resolution 242 and the right to self-determination.

After defending various stands, the Jordanian foreign minister set out his country's position on certain ideas recently canvassed in the political arena. He said Jordan does not favor the Soviet Union's proposal calling for the formation of a preparatory committee for the international conference, for the following two reasons:

1. Some people may believe the formation of such a committee is a precondition for convening the international conference. This conflicts with the possibility that international conditions may arise that will lead to convening the conference.

2. The five permanent members of the Security Council within the preparatory committee may disagree among themselves on many issues. Some states have their own goals and interests. This means that the idea of the conference may be killed even before it is held, as a result of stands that have nothing to do with the region.

The ideal solution in Jordan's view is what is taking place at present, namely, unofficial discussions among the five big powers either in New York under the auspices of the UN secretary general or directly among the five states. Egypt and Jordan have recently agreed on this point, on the basis that no one insists on procedural matters because what is important is that the five permanent members of the Security Council should have the opportunity to prepare for the conference through the Security Council and in consultation with the UN secretary general.

Tahir al-Masri affirms that the aim is to facilitate matters. He says we do not want to place the decision to convene the conference or the circumstances of convening the conference in the hands of world powers whose decisions may be influenced by interests totally divorced from the interests of the region.

It was natural that the discussion should turn to the extent of the change in the U.S. stand as observed by the Jordanian side. The Jordanian foreign minister says he has not sensed any such change so far, although there is greater flexibility than before. Jordan is anxious to obtain a written, public, and specific stand from the United States that does not stem from a short-term objective and is not the result of certain pressure. Two years ago we reached an understanding with the United States on holding the international conference but differences over the nature and role of the conference remained.

The current state of U.S.-Soviet relations and whether they are conducive to the two countries' agreement toconvene the international confernce is also linked with the previous point. Tahir al-Masri says the two superpowers may reach an understanding on the matter soon. We had expected Armacoast's visit to Moscow to have good results regarding regional disputes, including the Middle East conflict, but nothing of the kind happened. We are now waiting for the forthcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the Soviet Union (within the next 2 weeks) so we can address the issue.

The Jordanian minister says President Reagan twice promised King Husayn that the Middle East issue would be discussed during his meeting with Soviet leader Gorbachev in Geneva and subsequently in Reykjavik, but this did not occur. Asked what will happen if the PLO refuses to accept Resolution 242, Tahir al-Masri said we will cross our bridges when we come to them. Al-Masri added: Our present goal is to obtain from the United States an agreement in principle on convening the international conference in a manner compatible with Jordan's views. If that should occur it will be a great achievement. Many stands will subsequently change, even within the PLO, for if matters begin to develop clearly the PLO may have a better incentive.

The Jordanian foreign minister expressed his fear that if the international conference is not held this year it will never be held. That is because matters are moving quickly in the Palestinian arena, in the occupied territory, in Israel, and in the Arab world. Political facts and priorities in the region are constantly changing. What can be done today may not be possible in 6 months or a year, just as we may not now be able to do what we could do in the past. The history of the area before 1948 gives the impression of being a history of lost opportunities. Al-Masri asserts that whenever we are late in making a certain decision or to sit at the negotiating table things become more difficult.

Asked if there were various other formulas regarding Palestinian representation, as has been reported, Al-Masri declared: We do not have any other formula. The PLO must take part in the international conference, and we do not intend to find alternatives or other forms of representation.

The Jordanian minister explained that it was not Jordan that set the requirements for holding the international conference. It was not Jordan that insisted the PLO must accept Resolution 242. It was not Jordan that opposes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. It was not Jordan that called for independent Palestinian representation at the international conference. It was another party that made these demands, a party that has its own views just as Jordan stands by its rejection of Israel's attempts to impose direct negotiations and a sham conference. In answer to a question on whether the EC is playing a serious role in paving the way for the international conference, Al-Masri answered in the affirmative. Al-Masri noted that there is a basic improvement in the EC's stand on the Middle East. When fears of disturbances in the region increased, and when the weakness of American policy became apparent following the supply of arms to Iran, the EC saw an opportunity to enter the political arena the United States had barred Europe from entering.

The proof of the basic improvement in the EC stand is that after the EC had laid down the basis for dealing with the region in the 1980 Venice Declaration, the recent Brussels communique came to support the idea of convening an international conference. The EC went further and asked for a role in the international conference. It was for this reason that the Brussels communique did not specify the participants in the gathering, for the 12 EC states wanted to leave the door open to participate in the conference as an independent group. Tahir al-Masri said Leo Tindemans, Belgian foreign minister and current president of the EC Council of Ministers, left for New York to urge the UN secretary general to intensify his efforts and consult with the permanent members

of the Security Council. Tindemans is also scheduled to visit the region in mid-April to draw up the outlines of European thinking on the conference.

The Jordanian foreign minister met with Javier Perez de Cuellar on 12 March. They discussed the international conference. Al-Masri said that the UN secretary general should intensify his efforts in two directions: first with the U.S. Administration, and second with the permanent members of the Security Council. The Jordanian minister then contacted the Belgian foreign minister to brief him on his talks with Perez de Cuellar. Tindemans then decided to go to New York.

The Jordanian minister concluded by saying the Arabs must be active in various directions to convene the international conference and eliminate differences in thinking, understanding, and orientation among the various parties. Al-Masri says Jordan is making great efforts in that regard to bring views closer together. He asserted that real efforts to solve the problem began only recently. We could have given ourselves more time but we are pressed as a result of other developments — Israel is ceaselessly building settlements and bringing in new settlers. This is particularly true of the West Bank, and is designed to entrench its occupation of Arab land. There are other developments, such as the Iraq-Iran war and inter-Arab differences, that are becoming more entrenched each day. Regrettably, such a situation undermines our position vis-a-vis the Israelis and the Americans. Consequently, we feel we are losing time. However, we must act faster than the development of the problems and begin to solve the Middle East crisis.

GDR Minister Arrives for Educational Talks

JN052140 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Amman — Hans-Joachim Boehme, GDR minister for universityand technical school affairs, has praised the existing relations between Jordan and the GDR.

In a statement to a PETRA correspondent upon arrival at Queen Alia International Airport today, Boehme said: The most important objective of my trip is to resume talks and exchange opinions and information in the fields of education and scientific research, which we began last year when Jordanian Higher Education Minister Nasir al-Din al-Asad visited the GDR. He stressed that relations between the two friendly countries are developing, particularly in the political, economic, and scientific areas. He also highlighted the importance of the talks he will hold and their role in promoting bilateral ties.

Boehme pointed out that the two countries share several opinions, including those on international peace and on the reduction of tension in various parts of the world.

Meets Deputy Prime Minister

JN070810 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali has received Prof Hans-Joachim Boehme, the GDR minister for university and technical school affairs. Higher Education Minister Nasir al-Din al-Asad also attended the meeting. During the session, bilateral collaboration in the political, economic, and scientific areas was discussed, as were ways of promoting these ties. They also stressed that the current levels of cooperation in education and academics must increase, and that the number of scholarships granted in implementation of the educational cooperation agreement must grow. The GDR ambassador in Amman was present as well.

Amal: Withdrawal Must Precede End to Camps Siege

NC061241 Paris AFP in English 1149 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Beirut April 6 (AFP) — A leading member of the Shi'ite Amal Movement, Haytham Jum'ah, said Monday that the siege of the Beirut refugee camps would not be lifted until Palestine fighters withdrew from the area east of Sidon, in the south of Lebanon.

However, Mr. Jum'ah told AFP that Amal had "decided to allow food into Shatila (which has been under siege since November 26) and to help with all humanitarian operations, including the evacuation of the wounded."

The withdrawal of the Palestinian fighters east of Sidon must "come before" the lifting of the blockade around the camps, he said.

Amal and the National Palestinian Salvation Front (FSNP) agreed on Sunday night to observe a permanent cease-fire, raise the food blockade around Shatila and allow the evacuation of the wounded from the two Beirut camps. The agreement, due to be applied on Monday morning, also stipulated the withdrawal of Palestinian forces positioned east of Sidon, Amal sources said.

Mr. Jum'ah added that Amal was "categorically opposed" to allowing Palestinian fighters to move around outside the camps.

However, an FSNP spokesman said Monday that the withdrawal of Palestinian forces from the area east of Sidon would be dealt with "after the application of the cease-fire, the raising of the food blockade and the evacuation of the wounded".

Local FSNP and Fatah leaders at Sidon said they had received no instructions regarding the withdrawal of fighters positioned in the areas concerned. [passage omitted]

Provisions Enter Camps 6 Apr

NC061212 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Trucks carrying rice, flour, and sugar, as well as medical equipment, entered the Burj al-Barajinah camp this morning. At 1330, other trucks laden with provisions entered Shatila. It should be recalled that the entry of supplies into the camps is part of the agreement on lifting the camps siege. In return, the Palestinians are to withdraw from areas east of Sidon.

One Killed During Operation

NC061551 Paris AFP in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Beirut, April 6 (AFP) — Five truckloads of food, clothing and blankets entered the Palestinian camp of Shatila, under siege by Amal Shi'ite forces, at 1.30 P.M. (11.30 GMT) on Monday.

Unloading of the provisions, donated by Kuwait, was supervised by Syrian security forces.

However, a Palestinian militant was killed by sniper fire during the unloading operation, a spokesman for Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah organisation said.

The consignment of provisions, containing 33 tons of tinned food, 13.5 tons of flour, 180 suitcases of clothing and 57 bundles of blankets, was the largest to enter the camp in Beirut's southern suburbs since the siege was imposed on November 26 last.

Two truckloads of supplies from the pro-Syrian National Palestinian Salvation Front were delivered on March 1, two days after the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) succeeded in supplying 16 tons of flour and 4 tons of powdered milk.

Iranian Envoy Says No Change on Foreign Hostages

LD061820 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Beirut, April 6, IRNA — Iranian ambassador in Beirut, Ahmad Dastmalchiyan, conferred with Lebanon's Sunni mufti, Shaykh Hasan Khalid on the Lebanese situation as well as Iran-Lebanon relations, here Monday.

Also discussed at the meeting was the need for Islamic unity in Lebanon, the aiming of all weapons at the Zionist enemy and ridding Lebanon of internal conspiracies, Dastmalchiyan told IRNA after the meeting.

The Iranian envoy disclaimed any change of opinion at the meeting on the topic of foreign hostages in Lebanon.

Junblatt Returns From London Visit 6 Apr

NC061918 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] PSP leader Minister Walid Junblatt returned to Al-Mukhtarah this afternoon from London via Damascus following an official visit to Britain. He met with Riyad Ra'd [not further identified] at Al-Mukhtarah Palace.

2 Syrian Soldiers Wounded in Retaliatory Clash

NC061820 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] According to a report we have received from the Al-Hirmil district, gunmen from the 'Illu family attacked a checkpoint manned by Syrian forces in the Al-Sabil area today. A clash ensued, involving the use of rockets and machineguns. Two Syrian soldiers were wounded.

According to security sources, the attack was in retaliation for the confiscation by Syrian forces of a shoulder-held weapon belonging to soldier 'Abduh 'Illu in the area 2 days ago. The confiscation took place despite the fact that 'Illu produced a legal military permit for the weapon.

Shamir Briefs Cabinet on Soviet Issue

TA060939 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir left no doubt in the minds of his cabinet colleagues yesterday, that the media reports about the prospects of aliya from the Soviet Union had not yet been borne out by the facts on the ground.

Reviewing the results of the recent visit to Moscow by American Jewish leaders, Shamir said at the weekly cabinet meeting that no official information was available about the immediate intentions of the Soviet authorities other than that they were likely to allow a greater number of Jews to leave.

The only known fact, he said, was that 500 Jews left the Soviet Union during the month of March.

Nor was there firm information on reported intentions by the Kremlin to let the Soviet Jewish community enjoy some religious and cultural latitude, he said.

Israeli experts believed, however, that the Soviet authorities would in fact allow more than 10,000 Jews to leave over a 12-month period, he declared.

From Israel's standpoint, Shamir said, the important element was to be prepared in case Soviet Jews came in such large numbers. There must be no room for complaints that Soviet Jews went to settle elsewhere than Israel because of difficulties in absorption, he said.

As for the proposal for an exchange of consular delegations between the two countries, he said, this had been on the agenda since the meeting in Helsinki last year. "We considered the Helsinki meeting to be the commencement of official contacts."

Defence Minister Rabin said that when he was prime minister 11 years ago, the idea of an exchange of consular delegations had come up but he could not recall what eventually transpired.

Shamir said that Israel insisted on reciprocity in consular exchanges, without stipulating that it occur simultaneously. "When the Soviet Union said that each phase would come at the appropriate time, we take that to mean that the Soviets acknowledge the principle of reciprocity," Shamir said. "But we have not heard any dates aired for the despatch of a Soviet consular delegation."

Absorption Minister Ya'aqov Tzur said that the fact that 94 per cent of the Soviet Jews who arrived in Israel in the past remained here showed that absorption processes had been effective.

In order to absorb the mooted number of 10,000 olim, Tzur said, NIS 50 million would be required for the first two years, and NIS 10m. in the third year, in addition to NIS 240m. for permanent housing.

Labour Minister Moshe Qatzav said he anticipated a rise in unemployment in the coming winter. His ministry was prepared to invest some NIS 12m. in job retraining programmes. In addition Qatsav said, elderly Soviet immigrants would require budgetary pensions, since unlike immigrants from other lands, they could not bring any pension rights with them.

Minister-without-portfolio Moshe Arens, who has special responsibility for Soviet Jewish immigration affairs, demanded that Israel not receive a Soviet consular delegation unless and until all prisoners of Zion were freed from prison.

Minister-without-portfolio Yosef Shapira, who echoed Aren's stipulation, also warned that the continuation of the drop-out phenomenon would mean that while the elderly would settle in Israel, the young Soviet-Jews would go on to the U.S.

Peres Continues Official Visit to Spain

For coverage of the official visit by Foreign Minsiter Shim'on Peres to Spain, including his meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, see the Spain section of the 6 April Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Government To Send Nir-North Transcript to U.S.

TA070612 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Talk in the studio between moderator Yitzhaq Ro'e and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami — live]

[Text] [Ro'e] Jerusalem will give U.S. investigators into the Iran arms deal a transcript of a talk held between 'Amiram Nir and Colonel Oliver North. This will take place as early as this week, and by the end of the month Israel will also pass on to the United States the reports of how the Iran affair developed. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami is in the studio.

[Ben-'Ami] The U.S. committees investigating the Iran affair have discovered discrepancies and contradictions on many details between the testimonies of 'Amiram Nir, the prime minister's antiterrorism adviser, and Col Oliver North. The Americans have a transcript of a talk between Nir and North based on some brief, disconnected, and partial testimony by the U.S. colonel who, as may be recalled, refused to appear before the initial committee looking into this affair in the United States. As a result, the United States requested that the Israeli steering committee collecting the material in Jerusalem hand over its transcript of the conversation. The committee decided to comply with the U.S. request and to send the transcript of this talk to the U.S. congressional committees as early as this week. By the end of April the full reports, being prepared by reserve Major General Refa'el Vardi for the steering committee, will also be turned over to the Americans. These reports will include the sequence of events in the Iranian affair, as gathered from the Israelis involved.

[Ro'e] What about the Pollard affair? What is happening in the investigation of this other affair?

[Ben-'Ami] Well, as we reported yesterday, the Rotenstreich-Tzur fact-finding committee returned to work yesterday after a

10-day break as a result of reserve Major General Tzur's business trip abroad. In any event, this committee resumed its discussions yesterday and is interviewing employees of the Science Liaison Bureau. At the end of the week this committee will begin to hear from the political witnesses, so to speak — the political people who may or may not be involved. The committee will hear Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's testimony and on Friday it go to the Prime Minister's Office to talk with Prime Minister Shamir about all the details he knows: the functioning of the government since November 1985, when the affair broke; how the government conducted itself; and, of course, the details he was aware of regarding Pollard's operation. As we said, the committee will come to the prime minister.

At the same time the Eban committee is continuing its work. It is a partial committee now, as four of its seven members, including the chairman himsel, are abroad. Knesset Members Harish, Olmert, and Burg are not participating in the its deliberations.

Two Arabs Wounded by Gunfire in East Jerusalem
TA061332 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] A short time ago two Arabs were wounded by shots fired by an Israeli whose vehicle was pelted with stones on Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that one was wounded in the stomach and the other in the leg. The two are reported to be in satisfactory condition.

Stones were also thrown at Israeli vehicles on the road to Shu'fat and in the neighborhood of Al-Shaykh Jarrah in East Jerusalem. There was some damage but no casualties.

ALGERIA

Interior Minister Yala Visits Moscow 30 Mar-4 Apr

For a Moscow Radio report on the 30 March-4 April visit to Moscow by M'hamed Hakj Yala, minister of interior and localities, see page H 1 of the Middle East & North Africa section of the 6 April Soviet Union *Daily Report*.

LIBYA

BBC Cited Refuting Claims Leading to U.S. Bombing

LD041805 Tripoli JANA in English 1737 GMT
4 Apr 87

[Text] London, Al Tayr 4, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The BBC 1 TV featured a special programme on the failed American Atlantic barbaric aggression against Great Jamahiriyah last year.

The programme refuted, in accordance with unequivocal facts and official statements by a number of Western government officialsthe claims and lies made by American imperialism in a bid to justify their savage aggression against the life of the leader of the revolution and innocent children, women, and elderly.

The programme demonstrated with hard evidence that great Jamahiriyah was not involved in any manner with the incidents of Rome, Vienna, and West Berlin which the American Administration used as a justification for its blatant aggression against the Libyan Arab people and its revolutionary leader.

In a statement to the programme the West German minister of justice made clear that Libya was not involved in the attack on the night club of West Berlin. He said the results of the inquiry showed that Libya had no connection with the incident.

A West German member of parliament, who saw the evidence provided by the Americans to justify aggression against Libya, said that the American justifications and facts were not true and Libya was not connected to the acts of terrorism which took place.

The programme held an interview with an Italian senior intelligence [as received] who asserted that Libya was not involved in the attacks claimed by the American Administration and that another power was behind them.

The BBC programme showed the lies and contradictions in the statements of American officials on targets attacked as they were not connected with any terroristic nature, for they were civilian areas and innocent people who were bombed to death in addition to the American attention and attempts to assassinate the leader of the revolution.

The programme pointed out that intelligence analysts were put under pressure by the Dark House so as to conclude from their data that Libya was planning for terroristic attacks against American interests and nationals.

The BBC showed in its programme that the American Administration, since the coming of Reagan to power, was fabricating pretexts and justifications so as to stick certain claims of terroristic nature to Libya and hence to launch aggression against it especially after the failure of the American forces in Lebanon and attacks on American interests in other parts of the world, besides Reagan's pledge to use force against those who stand against American interests.

Al-Qadhdhafi Telephones Ghana's Rawlings

LD031816 Tripoli JANA in English 1436 GMT
3 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr 3, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — A telephone contact has been conducted today between the leader of the revolution and Mr Jerry Rawlings, chairman of Ghana's Provisional National Defence Council.

Foreign Minister Reaffirms Ties With Iranian Envoy

LD031815 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, April 3, IRNA — The new Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi reiterated Thursday [2 April] his country's firm support for the Islamic revolution of Iran and expressed his country's willingness to further expand Tehran-Tripoli relations.

Al-Talhi said in a meeting with the Islamic Republic Ambassador to Tripoli Mohammad Kazem Khonsari here, that the deep and strategic relations between Iran and Libya arise from the Islamic and revolutionary policies of the two countries as well as the will of Iranian and Libyan officials to resist the plots hatched by imperialists, Zionists, and their reactionary puppets.

In reply the Iranian ambassador congratulated Al-Talhi on his new post. The two also discussed important developments of the region and matters of mutual interest.

Later in the meeting the Libyan minister thanked his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati for his congratulatory message and expressed hope that he would visit Tehran in the near future.

Transportation Talks Held With Algerian Minister

LD061442 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 06 Apr 87

[Text] A joint working session was held in Tripoli this morning between the Libyan Arab and Algerian delegations in the field of maritime transportation and communications. It was attended by Rachid Benyelles, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the FLN and minister of transportation of fraternal Algeria; his accompanying delegation; and the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transportation, as well as a number of technicians and experts in the field of communications and maritime transportation.

In these meetings, the Libyan Arab and Algerian sides covered the means of strengthening and developing bilateral cooperation

in the field of transportation and communications, such as land, air, sea, and freight transport, as well as the field of passenger transportation and the exchange of technical experience in the management of the means of transport and (?employment).

These meetings are part of the unionist integration between the Arab people in the two fraternal countries, the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

MOROCCO

Joint Communique Issued on Talks With King Husayn

JN051246 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 5 Apr 87

["Text" of joint comunique issued in Rabat and Amman on 5 April after talks between King Husayn and King Hassan II]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In response to the kind invitation of his brother His Majesty King Hassan II, king of the Kingdom of Morocco, His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, paid a working visit to Rabat 4-5 April. During this trip, the two monarchs held expanded talks in an atmosphere of fraternity, amity, and eagerness to preserve all that would strengthen the Arabs and consolidate the excellent relations between the two fraternal kingdoms.

The two monarchs have stressed the identity of their views on the need for an immediate halt to the Iraq-Iran war and an end to the bloodshed between the two Muslim countries. This would be in accordance with international legitimacy and in response to the desire of the Arab and Islamic worlds, which has been expressed at all forums and meetings.

The two monarchs hailed the efforts of the participants in the fifth Islamic summit in Kuwait, as well as those of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait and ICO chairman, to stop the fighting and bring about peace between Iraq and Iran. They also highlighted their support and backing for his blessed work.

They stressed their desire to convene an Arab summit to discuss the overall Arab situation and to take measures that will safeguard legitimate Arab and Palestinian rights. The two monarchs bless the efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to clear the air in the Arab world so as to convene this conference and ensure its success.

His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty King Hassan II expressed pleasure at the level of distinguished relations between the two fraternal countries and gave directives to the officials of both states to work for their further consolidation and promotion. At the end of his stay, His Majesty King Husayn voiced his appreciation and thanks and those of his delegation for the hospitality accorded them by his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II, king of the Kingdom of Morocco. He wished fraternal Morocco additional progress and prosperity under his majesty's wise leadership.

The official talks between His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco resumed in Rabat yesterday evening. The discussions dealt with the situation in the Arab world, the Iraq-Iran war, and efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East by convening an international conference. The distinguished ties between the two states were also examined, as were ways to bolster collaboration in the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Attending the talks on the Jordanian side were Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Morocco was represented by His Highness Prince Mohamed, the crown prince; (Ahmed Reda Qadera), adviser to his majesty the Moroccan king; and Driss Basri, minister of interior and information.

SUDAN

Al-Mahdi Addresses Procession on Uprising Day

JN061126 Khartoum SUNA in English
1046 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, April 6 (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi today addressed a mass procession on the occasion of the April 6 popular upheaval second anniversary. The premier has traced the strugglings of the Sudanese people against the dictatorship of ousted President Numayri and pointed out to the hostilities, terrorism, oppression and the economic ill policies committed by the 16 years rule of toppled Numayri.

The premier hailed the transitional government leaders and described them as honest and loyal and that they have transmitted power to the people and set up just trials for the ousted regime's underlings. He also hailed the Armed Forces for its role in maintaining security and defending the country's territorial integrity.

On the occasion of the popular uprising second anniversary, Al-Mahdi called for all those who have carried arms against his government to put them down and come to the negotiations table saying that Sudan's problems should be solved peacefully and nationally. The premier pledged that the controversial Islamic laws (better known as Shari'a laws) introduced by ousted Numayri were about to be removed completely.

The premier called for the setting up of a popular national committee to prepare for the long-awaited national constitutional conference, which is regarded by all political forces as the best means for overcoming the country's thorny problems.

He also called for a two-week cease-fire during April appealing in the meantime on those who have raised arms against the government (apparently the SPLA of John Garang) to come a meeting to be held inside Sudan or in any other neutral country.

On the Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, Al-Mahdi proposed that the two countries should observe non-intervention in each other's issues and work out an agreement between them on the basis of good neighbouring.

He also proposed for the Sudan and Ethiopia to keep the Red Sea far from being point of international confrontations and called for a similar agreement with the Nile Basin countries. Al-Mahdi also appealed on the Ethiopians to seriously examine Sudan's proposals in this respect.

The premier further set up seven steps to be followed for the sake of safeguarding and maintaining democracy in the country among them the national consensus on Sudan's national issues, encountering the country's major problems, realizing efficiency in the national action and liberating Sudan from subordination to other powers.

The premier hailed the Libyan leadership for having donated four MiG 23 jetfighters to the Sudan as a gift for the Sudanese people on the occasion of April 6 second anniversary.

Algeria's Bendjedid Sends Letter to Al-Mirghani

JN060830 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1433 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Apr (SUNA) — Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, chairman of Sudan's State Council, has received a letter from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid dealing with ways to develop bilateral relations. It was delivered by FLN Central Committee Member Mawlud Qasim, who called on Al-Mirghani here Sunday.

Qasim arrived in the country last night at the head of a delegation to attend celebrations marking the 2d anniversary of the April uprising that toppled the tyrannical Numayri regime.

Constituent Assembly Approves Amendments

JN022039 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 2 Apr (SUNA) — At 1700 today the Constituent Assembly endorsed the amendments to the Sudanese provisional Constitution for 1987 by a majority. Two members of the Southern Sudanese Political Association [SSPA] opposed the amendments and asked that their objection be recorded in the minutes of the session. The moves for endorsing the Constitution were about to end during the third and final reading of the amendments when an SSPA member, (Joseph Okello), asked whether the Constitution should be endorsed by a majority or by two thirds of the Assembly in order to be valid. Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud of the Sudanese Communist Party and 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha of the Islamic National Front expressed their opinion that the required majority should be two-thirds and not a simple majority.

Attorney General 'Abd Mahmud al-Haj Salih said the required majority is only a simple majority. The deputy speaker of the Assembly, Hasan 'Abd al-Qadir, demanded that this be included in the 1985 Provisional Constitution because there is nothing in the document clarifying this point [words indistinct] this amendment says a two-thirds majority is required and this led to the restoration of the spirit of reconciliation and the amendments were [words indistinct]

Amendments to Article 11-2 stipulate that the state and all individuals are subject to the law and there will be no exceptions unless through special immunities or privileges granted by law. Amendments to Article 16-a stipulate that in response to the slogans of the April revolution, the state will be obliged to achieve the aims of the National Charter, particularly: a) liquidating the effects of the May regime; b) ensuring the democratic parliamentary system and protecting its constitutional organs and establishments; c) saving and protecting the national economy, punishing those who currupted this economy, and protecting the citizens from the greed of the parasitic sector of the society; d) protecting civil service establishments; and e) protecting public funds and controlling spending. [Passage omitted]

Minister Says Government Not To 'Submit' to IMF

JN061221 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 6 Apr (SUNA) — Dr Bashir 'Umar, minister of finance and economic planning, has said: We will not submit to the IMF. We cannot completely eliminate our dealings with it, but are seeking a compromise through the formulation of a Sudanese program with which to negotiate with the IMF.

Addressing a seminar on the 2d anniversary of the April uprising here yesterday evening, the minister explained that the government suceeded in putting some of the uprising's slogans into practice but failed with some others. This was due to the amount of destruction caused by the defunct May regime.

Dr 'Umar said the government spent a third of a billion pounds in its effort to distribute our national income. The bulk of this went to small producers to fix a minimum level of commodity prices. He pointed out that measures to reduce the cost of living are progressing very slowly. Some commodities are available, while others are in short supply. He pointed out that there is a lack of distribution channels, resulting in goods going on to the black market or being smuggled.

Dr 'Umar announced the existence of a trend to form a parliamentary delegation from all parties to meet with John Garang's SPLM. He said that all documents of the Economic Planning Council, which was formed in agreement with party leaders, will be handed to the SPLM as part of our national reconciliation effort. He affirmed that all economic reforms will fail if the war in the south continues, for it consumes a major portion of our general expenditures. He proposed that a social contract be concluded under which trade unions would suspend their demands for 3 years, while the government will ease the cost of living. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Views Political Process

PM061001 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 28 Mar 87 pp 16, 17

[Interview with Information and Culture Minister Muhammad Tawfiq by Hamidah Na'na' in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] *Al-Tadamun*: A democratic atmosphere now exists in Sudan, but there are also a number of

fundamental problems that were the direct cause of the uprising. This is especially true of our economic difficulties and the vestiges of the previous regime. The question is why the process of solving these problems has been delayed. Is it due to the nature of these problems, or is the government facing obstacles of another kind? Is the state of the coalition part of these obstacles?

Muhammad Tawfiq: No country that has been ruled for 16 years through repression, terror, and corruption at every level of government, been burdened by tremendous foreign debts totaling 13 billion dollars and 8 billion pounds to the Bank of Sudan, and suffered from terrible inflation, famine, and drought can solve its problems overnight. Certainly we are making progress, but we would like the Sudanese people to understand the nature of our chronic difficulties. I thought that the educated people in particular would certainly launch an enlightened campaign to give the government at least a year or 2 to put its house in order internally. But the opposite has taken place. All the trade unions in Sudan have asked the transitional government to hand over power to them. They want everything for themselves, as if the Sudanese people consisted solely of trade unions. After a year in power we found that salaries had increased 100 percent. I believe this was an incorrect decision and a great injustice to the Sudanese people. What percentage of the Sudanese people do trade union members represent? The majority of the Sudanese people today are outside the unions, so it is the people who suffer from this inflation. We have an oil crisis because we import most of the oil we need. In the meantime the world has lost confidence in Sudan. The first thing we must import into Sudan is confidence so we can ask for aid and loans. These are the real problems and obstacles we face. The transitional government should have placed these facts before the people, but it did not. It used to be said that we should cut the price of oil because it was donated by Saudi Arabia. Those who said this forgot about our 50-percent budget deficit, which meant that wages had to be subsidized with foreign aid. If we are to improve matters we must increase production, but the means of production are not available. We faced famine, and the first thing we had to do was eliminate it. We were fortunate in that the rainy season was good, but we cannot depend on rain alone in agriculture unless we save and restore confidence in the government. The strange thing is that we complained of famine in 1985 and complained of plenty in 1986. Just as the famine was a disaster so was the plenty, for we had no place to store the surplus. Moreover, our export potential is limited, as Port Sudan cannot handle more than 4,000 tons a day, and we must export 2 million tons a day. [as published] This gives you some idea of the extent of the loss, particularly since the state utilities were sabotaged. Numayri wanted to eliminate every project, including Al-Jazirah. There were no maintenance plans; in fact the new projects set up during Numayri's time were not studied. There was no coordination between the ministries. All this was happening while loans were being secured from abroad at exorbitant rates of interest. And even these loans were not utilized in the best possible way. [passage omitted]

Al-Tadamun: You were in opposition for 16 years before coming to power. You were expected to implement the political and economic program for which you fought, considering that your Council of Ministers includes an experienced former prime minister and a number of specialized ministers. Why do you not implement your program?

Muhammad Tawfiq: First of all, we did not learn our lessons. When we were demanding independence and all the parties were fighting for freedom, no one thought of laying down a political or economic program. The struggle was over power. When Numayri was in office our only objective was to get him out. Second, all the party leaders had gone and were finished. The leaders of the Democratic Union Party had gone and there was no second rank to take over. In fact, no one thought Numayri would be finished in a flash, not even Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi himself. So no one thought about projects or programs. In fact, when reconciliation began there were no real party organizations. The opposition consisted of individuals and so no economic policy was defined, as the two big parties had not set down the policy they wanted to follow. Therefore, the coalition government cannot define its economic policy before each party does. Even though there are no fundamental differences in their positions, it is essential to the achievement of stability.

Al-Tadamun: But the people have given you stability as well as absolute confidence and support.

Muhammad Tawfiq: What they have not given us is patience.

Al-Tadamun: One the uprising's fundamental demands was the liquidation of the effects and experiment of the May regime. Have they been eliminated or do you have plans to eliminate them, and if so how?

Muhammad Tawfiq: I am a member of a cabinet committee formed to eliminate the effects of the May regime, but so far we have not met. Obviously, we must first determine what impact it had on the 22 million Sudanese who did not approve of it. Some were deceived for a year, while others are still deceived and believe things were better then than they are now. [passage omitted]

Al-Tadamun: This leads us to the critical question: The prime minister faces two opposing fronts, one of which comprises the educated people who want the Islamic Shari'a repealed, while the second is the Islamic trend — represented in the General Assembly — that wants the opposite. How do you reconcile the two?

Muhammad Tawfiq: First, the September laws were not Shari'a laws — as shown by the fact that their author called them bad. Shari'a laws cannot be bad. Numayri promulgated them to protect himself. In his election campaign Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said he would abolish this legislation. But there is a Sufist party that believes it is not legitimate even to discuss them, while there are others in the party who demand their abolition. [passage omitted]

I believe the majority will favor their repeal. The majority of Sudanese in the north oppose them; the delay is caused by the Islamic Front, motivated by the desire for selfish gains and the hope of using these laws to terrorize people. However, the government must govern; it is responsible for security. [passage omitted]

AL-ITTIHAD: Al-Turabi on Al-Mahdi, Islam, Egypt

JN061032 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
3 Apr 87 p 15

[Interview with Dr Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic National Front in Sudan, by an unidentified correspondent — date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: In light of your historic relationship with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, does he believe in the one-party system and do his practices show this as his opponents are saying?

Dr al-Turabi: Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's writings and statements show that he favors mobilizing nationalist forces in one entity. Observers believe he really wants to mobilize these forces behind him. Because he is dealing today with a democratic, multi-party system, the constitutional amendments which he proposed to the Constituent Assembly warn of liquidating the multi-party system and the opposition in the same manner used by some African leaders to merge all parties by force under their banner. [Passage omitted on details of amendments and history of Al-Ansar sect]

Question: Is there any flexibility in the Islamic National Front's [INF] stand on the issue of Islamic Shari'a and what is the truth about reports that the INF will turn toward centrism away from ideological extremism?

Dr al-Turabi: Portraying the call for Islam as extremism is mere propaganda spread by Western media and even supported by some Muslims. In fact, Islam is a religion of justice and Muslims are a moderate people. Islam calls for centrism and therefore the INF will be following Islamic trends if it moves toward centrism. Some people claim that Islam calls for hostility toward non-Muslims, but the Sudan Charter proposed by the INF refuted this claim. [Passage omitted]

Question: Can we consider the openness in relations between the INF and Egypt a historic reconciliation?

Dr al-Turabi: We can consider it so. The two sides have bypassed historic differences. Egypt has put behind it the era of terrorism against the Islamic movement and we also put behind us attack on Egyptian authorities. We looked at the future and saw that the strategic interests which unify the Sudanese and Egyptian people are greater than past incidents which remained in the minds of some people. We completely bypassed these incidents.

Question: You were supposed to visit Egypt in February. Was the visit postponed for political reasons?

Dr al-Turabi: The visit was postponed because of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to Cairo so my visit at the head of an INF delegation would not appear as competition. The visit was also postponed in light of the parliamentary elections in Egypt, because we do not want to address the Egyptian people and the new government.

Question: Do you consider Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to Cairo a 'great' stride in relations?

Dr al-Turabi: Al-Mahdi's visit is considered the first step in normalizing relations between Egypt and the Al-Ummah Party. It has no major effect on cooperation. The visit is also not completely separated from the INF's visit to Cairo.

Question: How do you assess Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to Cairo in light of his government's foreign policy?

Dr al-Turabi: The Sudanese Government's foreign policy is still ambiguous. The foreign policy has many faces in light of the contradictions in trends between the two coalition parties vis-a-vis Egypt and Libya, Iraq and Iran, and the East and West.

In light of the priorities of his visits, the prime minister seems to be closer to the Iran-Libya-Syria-USSR axis. However, the prime minister's visit to the USSR produced nothing and his visit to Ethiopia did not receive great response. It is very difficult now to judge the trends of the foreign policy because it is still in a stage of hesitation and oscillation. [passage omitted]

Differences Between SPLA, Ethiopia 'Serious'

EA060602 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT
5 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Apr — Serious differences have emerged between leaders of the rebellion and the Ethiopian regime over arms and financial supplies to the movement. This was disclosed by the independent newspaper *Al-Usbu* in today's edition, citing special sources in Addis Ababa. It emphasized that the disputes arose as a result of activities by leaders of the rebellion in certain sympathetic countries. *Al-Usbu* predicted that the differences would precipitate a serious (?conflict) within the movement, which could lead to attempts by Garang and members of the organization's Executive Committee to eliminate each other.

SPLA's Garang Statement on 2d Anniversary of Uprising

EA061752 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT
6 Apr 87

["Full text" of the statement of Colonel John Garang de Mabior, chairman and commander-in-chief of SPLM-SPLA, to mark the 2d anniversary of the uprising of March-April 1985 — read by announcer]

[Text] Fellow countrymen, today marks the 2d anniversary of the glorious Sudanese March-April popular uprising. On such a day in 1985, the protest action of the popular mass movement in conjunction with the crippling military blows dealt by SPLM-SPLA to the decaying May regime finally ousted the 16-year-long Numayri dictatorship. The 6 April 1985 uprising was to have gone down into history as the single greatest achievement by the Sudanese masses had they succeeded to carry through with the uprising to its ultimate fruition. Lamentably, that was not to be the case. The masses lacked the requisite instrument for the assumption of power, and thereby a golden opportunity was created for Numayri's faithful generals to grab people's power. This they did, and without the slightest hesitation, proclaiming shamelessly that they had seized it in the name of the people.

By stepping into the power vacuum, the generals in only one single moment dashed all the hopes and aspirations of the masses. The transitional period that followed was in reality a breathing space to enable the military components of the minority clique system [to] implement a formal transfer of authority to the traditional sectarian-based political parties which formed the civilian pseudo-democratic aspect of the minority system. The generals in this scheme were only to act as custodians of power, which they duly surrendered to the traditional parties, whose triumph in the elections was a foregone conclusion. Two years have elapsed since the uprising, but our country has not witnessed the slightest change for the better; and the possibilities of meaningful change in the foreseeable future remain remote, because of the very sectarian nature of the system in our country.

This system is solely obsessed with its own survival, which it will never jeopardize by allowing participation of the broad Sudanese masses in the political process. Unless the masses could have a say in their own affairs, peace and economic progress will always remain beyond their reach. Fellow countrymen, the peaceful resolution of the ongoing armed conflict is indispensable to stability and progress in Sudan. The Khartoum government, which has so far shown a willingness to pursue peace but only on its own terms, is not interested in dialogue. Its main concern is to dictate a solution on the SPLM-SPLA, which has time and again stressed that durable peace in Sudan should be arrived at through a consensus of all the political forces rather than via a deal between the government in Khartoum and any given movement that has taken recourse to arms. The root causes of the present conflict are entirely national in character, and therefore do not exclusively concern SPLM-SPLA and the Khartoum Government. These are problems facing all the Sudanese people, whose right it is to discuss and attempt to solve them through the broadest possible forum.

It is precisely on the basis of these shared convictions that SPLM-SPLA and the national alliance for national salvation formulated the Koka Dam declaration as a program of national action geared to work a national constitutional conference on the basic issues, such as the system of rule and the identity of Sudan.

Fellow countrymen, the SPLM-SPLA's stand on peace based as it is on the Koka Dam declaration is crystal clear. Whereas SPLM-SPLA is strongly committed to these documents, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi signed the declaration merely for reasons of political expediency.

This impression was further reinforced when he subsequently decided to terminate the peace process using the Malakal plane incident as an excuse. The aircraft over Malakal was shot after a clear warning by SPLA against unauthorized flights in airspace that it controlled. It is morally reprehensible and therefore totally unaceptable to the Sudanese people for Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to bring to an abrupt halt the peace process, which could save thousands of Sudanese lives, by seizing upon the flimsy pretext that 60 civilians had perished as a result of SPLA action.

Fellow countrymen, it is quite plain that the Al-Sadiq government is far from convinced of the futility of military action as a means of ending the war. Nevertheless, should the Khartoum Government, for one reason or another, have a sudden change of heart, it would be of paramount importance for it not to lose sight of the fact that there is an already established framework for dialogue in the form of the Koka Dam declaration. And resumption of dialogue should start from where we had left off. The groundwork which the Sudanese political forces had laid down for dialogue at Koka Dam is a commendable Sudanese achievement which was realized without any external interests. It is a framework of which we should be justifiably proud and seek to explore and exploit to the utmost.

Fellow countrymen, you must have realized by now that the ongoing war has started to have some profoundly adverse repercussions on the national sovereignty of Sudan in a manner hitherto unprecedented. To sustain the war Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has found himself obliged to pay a needlessly high price. The task of procuring weapons with which to wage the war has meant for al-Sadiq al-Mahdi nothing less than compromising both the national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Sudan. In brief, our territory and independence is being bartered away for arms.

The Sudan has degenerated into a springboard from which foreign troops launch attacks on the territories of neighboring states with the full connivance of the Al-Sadiq government. Encroachments onto the territories of some neighboring countries by Khartoum Government troops within the framework of Khartoum's hostile designs aainst the governments of these states are becoming more frequent. All these occur at a time Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi deceptively poses as a peacemaker seeking to help restore calm in other war-torn countries.

Fellow countrymen, if Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is crusading for both regional and global peace, then what he is doing in his own country is exactly the reverse. Laboring under the illusion that a decisive military victory over SPLM-SPLA is possible, Al-Sadiq is only adding more fuel to the war. The formation of tribal militias to counter the SPLM-SPLA is a cornerstone of Khartoum's war strategy against the movement; and Army officers, both active and retired, are being eagerly recruited to implement the militia policy. One thing the government has overlooked in its enthusiasm about tribal militias is that they are a double-edged sword. Individuals are lured into tribal militia organizations by the prospect of wealth to be gained through loot and plunder, but then this depends on being on the winning side of the war.

Experience has shown us that the militia are basically unreliable allies who will switch sides at any moment and without prior warning depending on which way the tide of the fighting was turning. For the victor, the militia could be a blessing, but for the vanquished they are definitely a curse. On the other hand, a militia organization is quite perfectly capable of growing in both size and strength to the point where it could defy the authority of its very creator.

Fellow countrymen, the Al-Sadiq government prides itself on what it regards [as] the most democratic government in the entire Africa and the Middle East. A close look at political developments in Sudan reveals otherwise. Today in Sudan, the state of emergency is still in force, peaceful demonstrations banned, and opposition leaders are arrested for expressing their opinions in

public rallies. More seriously, the parliament is paralyzed by the lack of quorum. The government member of parliament has no business to attend to in parliament as matters are decided outside it by the two things [as heard]. In the south, Al-Sadiq has set up a so-called Council for the South from his own hand picked men, meanwhile ignoring altogether the political parties which should have at least been given the opportunity to express their views on the matter. The constitutionality of the so-called Council for the South is dubious, to say the least, and its formation amounts to a circumvention of the democratic process Al-Sadiq claims is prevailing in Sudan.

Fellow countrymen, social tensions are running dangerously high; and rather than try to ease them, the Khartoum government continues to exacerbate them through practices that mercilessly maltreat and degrade certain sections of our community. When mounting kashshah [crackdown] operations, security forces swoop down in large numbers on the makeshift dwellings of displaced citizens, mostly from west and south Sudan, herding them into vehicles that in turn whisk them away to forced labor on government agricultural schemes. The victims of the kashshah are people who have been uprooted from their homes by a combination of ill policies, the war dictated by Khartoum, and natural disasters. The surest remedy for their predicament, and indeed the cure for all our ills, lies in the speedy and peaceful resolution of the war.

Fellow countrymen, the task facing us is immense. The SPLM-SPLA will continue the quest for peace, but if the Khartoum government intensifies the war in the hope of overcoming us militarily, we shall reply in kind.

Your compatriot in the struggle, Col Dr John Garang de Mabior, chairman and commander in chief of SPLM-SPLA.

SPLM-SPLA Warns Civil Planes Against Overflights

EA061434 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] The official SPLM-SPLA spokesman has disclosed that Sudan Air Force planes and other mercenary aircraft assisting the Khartoum government have resorted to using international air routes before branching off near SPLA-controlled towns to execute their bombing missions. In view of this, the spokesman said the SPLM-SPLA was now warning international civil airlines against flying over SPLA-controlled towns, since they would be liable to SPLA antiaircraft fire if they continued to do so.

The spokesman said that the SPLM-SPLA would consider only Khartoum planes as its targets, but added that the possibility of an international civil airliner being shot down accidentally should not be discounted since the Khartoum Air Force planes and its other mercenary aircraft were using international air routes as approaches to SPLA-controlled towns.

In conclusion, the spokesman said that international civil airliners that overfly SPLA-controlled towns would be well advised to take the warning seriously because he said the SPLM-SPLA had now acquired the capability to bring down aircraft flying at high altitudes.

SPLA Says Al-Mahdi Plans New Political Alliance

EA062148 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] An Ummah Party MP from western Sudan, who prefers to remain anonymous, has also revealed to Radio SPLA that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has made a recent deal with Dr Hasan al-Turabi, his brother-in-law and leader of the National Islamic Front [NIF]. According to the recent pact, the Ummah Party and the NIF would form a new coalition government excluding the Democratic Unionist Party, the DUP, if the latter were to object to what both the Ummah and the NIF have termed a moderate Islamic government. The MP said that he and some of his colleagues strongly protested against such policies and that they would quit the Ummah Party and become independents.

A third source [as heard], also from western Sudan, has revealed that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has bribed some politicans from the areas that were devastated last year by his tribal militia, popularly known as the Murahilin. This, the source adds, has been coupled by Al-Sadiq with promises that he would stop the atrocities of the militia if the politicians formed tribal militias in Aweil, Gogrial, Abyei, and Bentiu to fight the SPLA.

A spokesman for SPLM-SPLA has commented, saying that Al-Sadiq was now making these offers because his militia, or the Murahilin as they are commonly known, had been decisively defeated by the SPLA. This, the spokesman pointed out, should be understood by the politicians as the actual reason prompting Al-Sadiq to make these offers. The source, who said he had high-level information on Al-Sadiq's overtures to the southern politicians, himself appealed to SPLM-SPLA to negotiate with the elders of the affected tribes in Kurdufan and Darfur on matters concerning water, grazing, and peace along the river.

Al-Mahdi Transforming National Army Into Party Force

EA062208 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] SPLA official sources in the office of the Khartoum prime minister, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, have made a number of revelations regarding the plans of the prime minister. These, the sources say, should be exposed by Radio SPLA in the national interest.

According to the sources, Al-Sadiq intends to dismiss his commander in chief, General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, and appoint in his place General Mahdi Babu Nimr, a staunch supporter of the Ummah Party. The sources added that the recent purge of 40 officers from the army was a continuing process that aims to transform the national army into a party army.

The sources said they were leaking the information to Radio SPLA out of patriotic concern, because they believed that what they regarded as the sectorianisation [as heard] of the army

[would] bring serious crisis in the army and the nation. The sources further said that the current purges of non-Ummah supporters from the army would continue until Al-Sadiq attains his goal of having 80 per cent of army officers derived from Ummah Party members by the year 1990.

26 Militiamen Reportedly Defect to SPLA in Pibor

EA052123 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Pibor — Twenty six officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who had belonged to Ismail Koni's group of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's militia recently gave themselves up to SPLA authorities in Pibor. The ex-militiamen who were received by Colonel (Agasio Akol Tong), the chief of staff of the first axis command, have now been absorbed as full members of the SPLM-SPLA.

Our correspondent in Pibor says that the 25 [as heard] are the first batch among the Ismail Koni unit of the Khartoum militia to respond to the SPLA appeal that has called upon remnants of the militia which had fled Pibor after its capture to surrender to the SPLA.

In a brief statement of welcome to the former militiamen, Col (Agasio Akol) praised them for having taken the correct decision to cross over to the SPLA side. Col (Agasio) further wished the newcomers active participation in the struggle within the ranks of the SPLM-SPLA. [passage omitted]

CHAD

GUNT's Goukouni Leaves Algiers for Abidjan

AB061615 Paris AFP in French 1419 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 6 Apr (AFP) — According to reliable sources in the Algerian capital, Goukouni Oueddei, president of the GUNT (Chad's Transitional National Union Government), left Algiers today for Abidjan, where he will meet with President Houphouet-Boigny. Goukouni Oueddei, who has been in Algiers for nearly 2 months, was expected to continue his African tour by going on to Cotonou before returning to Algiers, the same sources disclosed.

The deliberations between the GUNT president and the Chadian Government delegation led by Interior Minister Mahamat Itno, which were taking place in the Algerian capital, were temporarily interrupted by the latter's departure for Ndjamena on Thursday [2 April].

Habre Asks Zaire To Train More Commandos

AB070645 Paris AFP in French 1836 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, 6 Apr (AFP) — It was learned from a reliable source in Kinshasa on 6 April that Chadian President Hissein Habre has asked his Zairian counterpart, Mobutu Sese Seko, to train a fifth battalion of Chadian commandos. The source noted that President Habre is pressing Marshal Mobutu to accept the request due to the successes scored in the field by the first four Chadian battalions trained in Zaire. The 2,000 Chadian commandos who were trained, equipped, and armed in Zaire proved to be extremely efficient and effective on the battlefield. It was said that these troops were given the most delicate tasks at the front. [passage omitted]

CAMEROON

President Biya Returns From 7-Day PRC Visit

AB061945 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The president of the republic returned to the nation's capital today after a 7-day state visit to China. The presidential couple alighted from the presidential plane at 1510 at the Yaounde airport to a tumultuous welcome. [passage omitted]

Radio Views Visit

AB061940 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Antoine-Marie Ngosang commentary]

[Text] The recent state visit to the PRC by President Paul Biya and Mrs Jeanne-Irene Biya can be described as a solemn tribute to Chinese-Cameroonian friendship. The visit apparently had an exploratory side to it. We have come, the head of state said, to see, hear, and better acquaint ourselves with great China, which, like Cameroon, is a Third World country and a developing state.

However, the trip's more important goal was to lay the foundation for more fruitful cooperation. We have had relations with the PRC for 16 years, and they are exemplary in every respect. The Yaounde Congress Hall, the Lagdo Hydroelectric Dam, and two medical teams at work in Mbalmayo and Guider are brilliant examples of our collaboration. While inaugurating the Lagdo Dam, President Paul Biya rightly described it as a model of South-South cooperation for the mutual benefit of the Chinese and Cameroonian peoples.

There are undeniable benefits in cooperating with the PRC. Its African policy is based on clear and precise ideas: equality and mutual benefit, efficiency, various forms of collaboration, and joint efforts for development. Another fact worth mentioning is that cooperation with Beijing has no political strings attached. Naturally, the PRC is not the Santa Claus of cooperation. It is felt in Beijing — and we share this view — that cooperation must be based on the actual needs and potentials of the partners. Partners in cooperation should be able to complement and help each other. We fully share this concern. As such, our cooperation is likely to reach greater heights.

It is satisfying to know that Yaounde and Beijing have decided to strengthen and broaden the scope of their ties. This is undoubtedly one of the major gains of President Biya's official visit to the PRC.

Yesterday's emphasis was on infrastructure and prestige projects. Today, one must finance smaller and less expensive projects, easier to implement and manage. We are all aware that China has ample middle-level technology that could be of use to our country.

Finally, after delivering the tools, the PRC now proposes to train manufacturers of these tools. According to a Chinese proverb, it is better to teach a starving man to fish than to feed him fish forever.

ZAIRE

Ceausescu, Wife Begin Visit to Zaire 30 Mar

For Romanian media coverage of President and Mrs. Ceausescu's visit to Zaire, including Ceausescu's toast to President Mobuto, see the Romania section of the 6 April East Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

BENIN

SDAR Foreign Minister Brings Message to Kerekou

AB042058 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Brother Mansour Omar, the Saharan minister of foreign affairs and member of the Polisario Political Bureau, was received in audience this morning by President Mathieu Kerekou. The Saharan minister, who brought a message from his president, was accompanied to the president's office by his counterpart, Guy Landry Hazoume. He also briefed the head of state on the latest diplomatic and military developments affecting Western Sahara.

[Begin Mansour recording] I was granted an audience by his excellency the president, to whom I delivered a message from President Mohamed Abdelaziz on the Saharan people's situation. You know that we attach a great deal of importance to His Excellency President Kerekou, who is one of the defenders of the Saharan cause. I spoke with his excellency. I found him to be very lucid and quite well informed about all aspects of the Saharan cause. The Saharan cause, as you are aware, is currently going through a decisive phase.

On the military front, we are still facing the Moroccan occupation forces, but today our war of attrition is beginning to pay very positive dividends, especially after the seizure of about 30 km of the walls that the Moroccans built around the areas they occupy. During these operations we captured about 100 soldiers and seized some very sophisticated weapons. As such, Morocco has given us a big hand in terms of military equipment.

We observe that, on the war front, Morocco wants to continue to occupy and enlarge the area it holds by building a sixth wall around the central area [words indistinct]. These walls being built by Morocco no longer have any military significance. For after the battles that have taken place, we have shown Morocco that the walls are neither invulnerable nor impassable, that they represent a failed strategy, and that to continue to extend them means to prolong, as you know, a war of attrition. Therefore, they are understood to have no significance in terms of defense; rather, their importance is strictly political.

The king of Morocco orders his troops to continue extending these walls, not as a military measure, but to prove to the world that his advance continues. But this advance will, in the long run, do him more damage, for Morocco has already built 2,400 km of walls, and wants to add 600 more. Even the strongest army in the world cannot occupy the Saharan territory and emerge victorious.

We briefed the president on the state of our diplomatic contacts with Morocco. Unfortunately, they have not had any results, for Morocco persists in its intransigence, continues to reject direct negotiations for a cease-fire, and still refuses to withdraw its administrative forces, as the United Nations and the OAU have requested, for the organization of a free referendum for the Saharan people.

So today Morocco persists in its stand, which it has repeated since 1981. It says it is prepared to organize a referendum. However, Morocco wants a referendum under occupation, a referendum organized under the occupation of its forces and administration. Therefore, it cannot be accepted by the Saharan people. [end recording]

BURKINA FASO

CDR Conference Ends 3 Apr; Resolutions Adopted

AB041914 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The second national conference of Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] ended yesterday evening at Dedougou. The theme of the conference was the role of the CDR's in establishing an independent national economy in Burkina Faso. Major decisions were made at the conclusion of the 3-day debates.

In an oath called the Dedougou Oath, the CDR's swore to strive relentlessly for the general mobilization of the people for the implementation of all projects designed to achieve economic independence for Burkina Faso.

In his closing speech, the president of Burkina Faso, Captain Thomas Sankara, announced a ban on the importation of fruit, which took effect yesterday evening. Here is a report from Gabriel Tallemy on the closing ceremony:

[Begin Tallemy recording] As I said yesterday, the deliberations and debates are over, and the real battle has now begun. The second national CDR conference has ended. The closing session was presided over by CNR [National Council of the Revolution] Chairman Comrade Capt Thomas Sankara, president of Burkina Faso. [passage omitted]

The highlight of the ceremony was the closing speech by the comrade president of Burkina Faso. The comrade president began by expressing satisfaction with the work done. Everything has been fully discussed, he said, and it is now time to properly implement the decisions. The integration of the CDR's of Burkina Faso and Ghana should become a reality in accordance with the desire expressed by the Ghanaian CDR political counselor, for, as Capt Thomas Sankara said, the CDR's constitute the backbone of our two (?pure) and strong revolutions. [passage omitted]

Our battle is an economic one, and our war is against imperialism. We must engage in concrete acts to justify this struggle. We must develop revolutionary intelligence and a sense of creativity in our fight that will permit us to always progress victoriously. Our current economic war is a threat to capitalist interests. By wearing clothes made of Burkinabe textiles we will disrupt the foreign textiles market. This disruption is likely to be far-reaching, because others, beyond our borders, may wish to follow our example. By using cut stones in building, we will disrupt the cement market, and by using corn in making bread we will disrupt the wheat market, Capt Sankara said. [passage omitted]

There are things we do not produce, which imperialism could use in attacking us — oil, for instance. But it is through our own determination that we shall win. We must develop our revolutionary intelligence and sense of creativity to progress. We must produce and consume what we produce. We must gain control over our needs. This is a fundamental prerequisite for freedom, Capt Sankara said. [passage omitted] [end recording]

GHANA

Nicaragua's D'Escoto Makes Arrival Statement

AB061141 Accra Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] The Nicaraguan foreign minister, Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, arrived in Accra last night to begin a 4-day visit to Ghana at the invitation of the government. He was met at the airport by the acting secretary for foreign affairs, Mr Kwamena Ahwoi. In an interview, Father d'Escoto told newsmen that he will exchange views with the government and find ways of deepening relations between Ghana and Nicaragua.

On the border skirmishes with Honduras, Father d'Escoto said there has been an attempt over the past 6 years by Honduras, backed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, to destabilize Nicaragua. He said billions of dollars have been used in these destabilization attempts. Father d'Escoto, however, said these attempts have been neutralized by the overwhelming support of the Nicaraguan people to defend their motherland. Father d'Escoto said the United States should change its destabilization policies and join law-abiding nations in observing international laws.

On the church's involvement in the revolutionary process in his country, Father d'Escoto regretted that instead of the church hierarchy preaching brotherhood and advancing the revolution, it is fighting to put out the fire of change. He added that in spite of America's recent attempts at sabotaging infrastructure like bridges, electricity, and water supply systems, the people of Nicaragua are forging ahead in unity to achieve successes.

Talks With PNDC's Tsikata

AB062156 Accra International Service in English
1930 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] The Nicaraguan foreign minister, Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, today held talks with a member of the PNDC, Captain Kojo Tsikata, in Accra behind closed doors. Later, Father d'Escoto told newsmen that they discussed the situation in Nicaragua and the effect of the aggression by U.S.-backed contra rebels. He said the contras have tried all (?efforts) of sabotage against Nicaragua without success, and the only option open is for the United States to send troops directly to invade his country. Father d'Escoto asked the United States to stop its acts of aggression and become a law-abiding nation.

He and Captain Tsikata also reviewed the situation in Africa and Latin America. The Nicaraguan foreign minister said Ghana is experiencing problems which any country embarking on an authentic revolution is bound to encounter. He asked Ghanaians to put their shoulders to the wheel to ensure the success of the 31st December Revolution, since the whole of the developing world is looking up to Ghana for inspiration and guidance.

Father d'Escoto described their discussions as fruitful, adding that they were characterized by frankness and a strong awareness of the problems the two countries are facing because of the revolutionary path we are charting.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister later called on the executive secretary of the CDR's [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] National Secretariat, Miss Doris Ocansey. She briefed Father d'Escoto on the activities of the CDR's.

On his part, Father d'Escoto said activities of the Sandinista defense committees are similar to those of CDR's in Ghana. The Nicaraguan foreign minister stressed that the people must be ideologically enlightened so that the enemy may not dissuade them from the goals of the revolution. Father d'Escoto said the Nicaraguan revolution has as its priority the defense of the sovereignty of the country. The defense committees are therefore given military training.

IVORY COAST

GUNT's Goukouni Arrives for Talks With Houphouet

AB062110 Abidjan Television Service in French
2010 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Goukouni Oueddei is in Abidjan. He arrived in the Ivorian economic capital about an hour ago. He was welcomed at the foot of the ramp by Ministers Simeon Ake, Leon Konan Koffi, Laurent Dona-Fologo, and Oumar N'Daw. Our reporter Ali Yoda was there:

[Begin recording] [Yoda] As you are arriving in Ivory Coast, what is the significance of your visit?

[Goukouni] First, as you know very well, Chad is experiencing a difficult situation. This situation required that I visit your beautiful country to hold talks with President Houphouet-Boigny and receive wise advice, which will enable me to find a solution to the Chadian tragedy. That is, broadly, the meaning of my trip here.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the warm welcome you gave me and my delegation. I also heartily thank the government, the Ivorian people, and President Houphouet-Boigny, whom both we Chadians and the whole of Africa consider the wise man of the continent. Therefore, I am here to hold talks with him, and will return home after our discussions. [end recording]

LIBERIA

Doe on U.S. Experts, Strikes, Cabinet Reshuffle

AB032220 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Report on speech by President Samuel Doe at a ceremony for new government officials at the Executive Mansion in Monrovia on 3 April -- passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Samuel K. Doe today commissioned several government officials at the Executive Mansion in Monrovia. Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, President Doe reminded the commissioned officials that their position does not in any way make them a privileged class, but only servants of the people.

"May I remind you that your being members of the cabinet, or in whatever position you serve, does not in any way make you a privileged class, but only servants of the people. [applause] As such, you should also be mindful that there are many equally qualified Liberians out there, from among whom you are being selected to serve.

"Significantly, you are being called upon to serve at a crucial time when our country is facing many challenges, pressing among which is our effort to achieve economic recovery. I admonish all officials of government to avoid excessive talking and get down to business. We all know the problems facing the economy. It is time we talk less and do more in tackling the problems before us. [applause] We have the capability to make our country more productive and less dependent on outside assistance. Our technicians must now get down to work, and evolve concrete and workable solutions to these problems."

President Doe, touching on the question of the 17 U.S. financial experts to assist Liberia in its economic recovery efforts, said the arrangement in no way means that we are relinquishing our sovereignty.

"We use this occasion to make it clear that this arrangement in no way means that we are relinquishing our sovereignty. [applause] The assignment of these experts here is the result of our request to the U.S. Government and discussions held during the visit of Secretary of State Shultz earlier this year. We are simply seeking the collaboration of those who will work with us in exposing any malpractice or otherwise that may not be in the best interest of government, and to see to how the economic status of the country can be improved.

"We should not see the assignment of these individuals here as taking over our responsibilities. For indeed, they shall only continue to serve as long as they enjoy our confidence and support. Let me say, also, that if our memory serves us right, this is not the first time we have had such experts in our country."

The president further said any public servant who feels that he or she cannot cope with the difficulties our country is now experiencing is free to leave the system. He strongly warned that government will not condone any strike action which tends to disrupt the peace and stability of the country. President Doe earlier stressed that our laws forbid strike actions by civil servants.

"Our laws forbid strike action by civil servants. Accordingly, any public servant who feels that he or she cannot cope with the difficulties our country is now experiencing is free to leave the system. [prolonged applause] Therefore, the government will not condone any action which tends to disrupt the peace and stability of the country. We have observed with concern that because of teachers' and students' constant involvement in politics the educational system of our country has eroded considerably. It must be made clear that any teacher or student who is interested in politics should leave the classroom and join us in politics.

"We are dismayed by the fact that many of our students today are no longer interested in their lessons and the pursuit of academic excellence, but rather have become overly concerned about politics and those things that are not necessarily conducive to their school work. Our schools and institutions in the country must learn to control their students and ensure that they devote their time and energy to their studies. Student organizations in the country must maintain their roles of students, and not interfere in foreign issues. It has been brought to our attention that some individuals claiming membership in these organizations are not students, but are bent on causing chaos in our society. I wish to emphasize that no one will be allowed to violate the law of this country with impunity.

"With respect to the press, while we are doing everything to promote press freedom, we would not encourage newspapers to politicize issues in such a manner that could undermine our efforts to achieve the objectives of national reconciliation and economic recovery. Our economy will not improve as long as we continue to be confronted with these minor problems."

President Doe then strongly urged teachers who have not returned to their classrooms to do so in the interest of themselves, their children, and the society as a whole.

"I strongly urge those teachers who have not returned to their classrooms to do so in the interest of themselves, their children, and the society as a whole.

"Failure on their part to cooperate will leave government with no alternative but to take appropriate action to safeguard national interests. They must all strive to ensure that the 1987 academic year goes undisturbed. For we would not allow another 18 March incident to be repeated by students nor teachers. As patriotic Liberians, we must be able to understand and show sympathy for the difficulties being faced by the nation and renew our commitment to seeking the recovery of our economy.

"Against this background, distinguished honorees, you will be required to make yourselves accessible to the people, and exhibit discerning leadership and (?mature) qualities."

During the commissioning ceremonies today, President Doe, in his closing impromptu remarks, noted that the recent cabinet reshuffle was a major one since the inception of the Second Republic.

"Since the inception of the Second Republic, the last week's cabinet reshuffle was the major one. We did so in order to place the people in their right places so that we can achieve our economic recovery, not because we hate the people that we dropped nor that we hate the people that we transferred, but we did so in the interest of the general public. And those of you who have been commissioned today, you will have to prove yourselves to the people of this country whether you are worthy of the position that you are occupying today.

"We, the Liberian people, we are quick to forget. We talk a lot and say nothing, and I want to appeal to you, especially the managing directors and members of the cabinet, to put the country first before yourselves. It is widely believed that in Liberia the only way you can get rich is to be managing director or to be a cabinet minister. And you get to prove whether it is false or not. Some of you delay investments or proposals because of no kickbacks, and I want to appeal to you in this public manner if you can change, and I know you can change, for the better and not for the worse.

"And I want to say that the people of this country expect a lot from you, the newly commissioned officers, especially the cabinet ministers. It is you who travel frequently abroad to negotiate for loans for investment for this country, and before you talk for yourselves you talk for the country first. [laughter]

"And we know there are records on each and every one of you here, the bad ones, the good ones. And this year 1987, we want to prove to the people of this country and the outside world that we, Liberians, are capable of managing the affairs of this country. [applause] And that with the help of our Almighty God, I think we will succeed."

Striking Teachers To Return to Work 7 Apr

AB061932 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Teachers of the MCSS [Monrovia Consolidated School System] say they will resume normal duties tomorrow, Tuesday. The decision by the teachers to return to classes was contained in a press release issued over the weekend under the signature of the MCSS Teachers Association chairman, Mr Kezelee Vanyanbah, and his general secretariat.

According to LBS [Liberian Broadcasting System] Radio, the teachers said they were resuming their duties because of the many achievements made in their negotiations for improved conditions within the system.

Among the achievements cited in the release are the relocation of the Monrovia Central High School by second semester 1987, the creation of afternoon sessions at the (?Bathward College) and the (Marvin Selby) Junior High School, as well as the supply of instructional equipment by authorities of the MCSS. The teachers also said their request for representation on the MCSS council was accepted by Education Minister Othello Gonga for onward transmission to President Samuel Kanyon Doe.

The teachers also expressed delight for the incentive given them to register any two of their school-aged dependents in any public school, free of registration fees.

It can be recalled that teachers of the MCSS recently refused to commence the 1987 academic year, which officially began on 23 March, until a number of conditions were met.

NIGERIA

BBC Reports Political Bureau's Recommendations

AB041055 London BBC World Service in English
0730 GMT 4 Apr 87

[From "This Week in Africa" program]

[Text] It seems there are some surprising recommendations in the report by the Nigerian Political Bureau set up by President Babangida's government to find out what kind of political system Nigerians would like when the military hands over, as promised, in 1990 to some form of democracy. Apparently, the report doesn't confine itself to politics but also goes into economic policy, coming out against privatization of public assets. From Lagos, Shola Odunfa cabled this report:

[Announcer] The Bureau has recommended socialism as a national political philosophy for Nigeria, and it said that the government should have a monopoly over the commanding heights of the national economy. It listed financial institutions, major industries, petroleum, and mining as key areas over which the government should exercise the monopoly. This recommendation is a sharp departure from the system of free enterprise and pseudocapitalism which Nigeria has been practicing since its foundation.

The Bureau says its recommendations and the government's views on them should be put before a constituent assembly which will draw up a new constitution for the country, and that the new constitution, too, should be submitted to a national referendum for approval by the people.

Under the new system proposed by the Political Bureau, Nigeria will have only two political parties. The parties would be expected to embrace socialism as the national political philosophy and will be allowed to disagree only on the implementation of this philosophy. There will be a single unicameral legislature, although there will also be a national council of state. The council's members will be former heads of state of Nigeria, former chief justices, former governors, and former chiefs of Defense Staff of the Armed Forces.

It's understood that the Bureau approved the government's intention to conduct elections on a no-party basis into local government councils this year. The Bureau expected the process of writing and approving a new constitution to be completed next year and so fixed registration of political parties for 1989.

The government has set up a panel of military officers, civil servants, and academics to prepare a report to be adopted as the government's view on the Bureau's report.

Paper Wants Action Against 'Religious Fanatics'

AB061118 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 6 Apr 87

[From the press review]

[Text] The *Patriot* is not happy with the recent statement credited to the well-respected Islamic scholar, (Sheik Abubakar Gumi), that Christianity does not exist. The paper contends that such an assertion is capable of further causing religious crisis in the country. The paper therefore calls on the Federal Government to put pressure on those it calls religious fanatics to desist from making utterances capable of throwing the nation into another religious uprising.

SENEGAL

Diouf Speaks on Eve of 27th National Day

AB041856 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2030 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Address to the nation by President Abdou Diouf on the eve of the 27th anniversary of the country's independence — recorded]

[Excerpts] Good evening fellow Senegalese and (?foreigners) living among us! There are some events in the life of a nation that are always awaited with pride and joy. And so it is with our national day, the 27th anniversary of our independence, which we will celebrate tomorrow. We will mark it with joy, dignity, and with the solemnity the event demands. We are also going to celebrate it with pride for having recovered the historic responsibility to manage our own destiny.

It has been 27 years of struggle on all fronts; 27 years of hard work, relentless efforts which will never be in vain in the construction of a strong, just, and prosperous nation. [passage omitted]

Dear countrymen, our economic policy would have been doomed to failure if we had not taken its human aspect into consideration, because economic development can only be achieved through man's own efforts. It is therefore with deliberate emphasis that I will once again remind you of the importance I attach to the training of a new Senegalese, the establishment of a new society of justice, peace, and progress; in short, to the new Senegalese educational system.

The reform of our education system is progressing smoothly. Since 18 January 1985, when the government made its position clear on proposals made at the end of the general conference on education, and restated during the deliberations of the national educational reform commission, arrangements have been made for the accomplishment and implementation of the new Senegalese education system. [passage omitted]

As you see, the implementation of a reform is a long-term project, a complex and difficult project, but its programmed accomplishment that has been outlined is proceeding smoothly. I am happy to reiterate that my government will spare no effort to establish a genuinely democratic school, open to the future and adapted to the demands of our times. But it is important to stress that this objective cannot be attained through disorder and demagogy.

I will take this opportunity to recall the disturbances and clashes that the University of Dakar has just experienced. This incident, which nearly compromised the smooth running of the academic year, is thoroughly regrettable, but can be credited with teaching us, among other things, two basic lessons.

The first is a lesson of vigilance against any attempts by politicians to capitalize on student unrest. Our young people can be allowed to peacefully make claims for their organized body; it is, however, unacceptable — and my government will never tolerate it — that a student strike action should serve as an excuse for frustrated politicians in search of followers and popularity or simply motivated by the infantile instinct of unbridled destruction and violence.

The second is a lesson of responsibility and method for the government, which demonstrated the required level of calmness, open-mindedness, and dialogue that led to the satisfactory resolution of the crisis.

Senegalese countrymen and women, the coherence and method that guided our actions in this field also underlie my government's foreign policy. We continue to maintain relations with all countries that love justice, democracy, and peace. [passage indistinct] We will never stop condemning the crimes of apartheid and multiplying the [words indistinct] African masses so that the racist Pretoria regime can find the right path [words indistinct] by history in favor of the advent of a [words indistinct] democratic society — a society of justice, freedom, and social equality. [passage omitted]

SIERRA LEONE

Government Denies Stevens Under House Arrest

AB062148 Paris AFP in French 2044 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Freetown, 6 Apr (AFP) — The Presidency of the Republic of Sierra Leone has denied that former President Siaka Stevens has been placed under house arrest, as reported in Freetown on Sunday. The Presidency announced the denial today in a 1-sentence communique.

Meanwhile, the government has announced that former Vice President Francis Minah, who had been placed under house arrest on Saturday, 4 April, has been transferred to a maximum security prison.

Receiving the Executive Committee of the Association of Journalists of Sierra Leone, President Joseph Momoh stated that the recent coup attempt was the result of the rapacious greed of a small group that thinks it has the right to play, as it likes, with the country's economy and has been entrusted with too much power. The head of state has added that it was dangerous for aperson or a group of persons to have more economic or political power than the state.

MOZAMBIQUE

Chissano Pays 'Working Visit' to Zambezia

MB061150 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Joaquim Chissano, chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, left Maputo this morning for Quelimane on 3-day working visit to Zambezia Province. The presidential delegation includes senior party and state officials. The Mozambican head of state was seen off at Maputo International Airport by People's Assembly Chairman Marcelino dos Santos, Prime Minister Mario Machungo, and other party and state dignitaries. This is President Joaquim Chissano's first trip to Zambezia Province since assuming leadership of the country. He is also expected to tour Sofala Province after leaving Zambezia.

Explains Economic Policy

MB070738 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] President Joaquim Chissano met with the Frelimo Party provincial committee in Quelimane this afternoon to briefly explain the objectives of the economic rehabilitation program being implemented in the country.

President Joaquim Chissano called on local party structures to make every effort to become self-sufficient. This appeal also applies to the democratic mass organizations [words indistinct] of the party.

The Mozambican head of state arrived in Quelimane at approximately 1145. He was received at the local airport by Feliciano Gundane, minister in the presidency and outgoing governor of Zambezia Province, and other provincial party and government officials. Thousands of people enthusiastically welcomed President Joaquim Chissano. This is the third province he has visited since his election as president in November 1986. [passage indistinct].

Renamo Rebels Release Five Captured Zambians

MB061300 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1200 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Zambia says Mozambique rebels have released five captured Zambians. Defense Chief Alex Shapi says the Zambians were captured and most sent to Mozambique after MNR guerrillas raided their village last Thursday [2 April]. He says the villagers were tortured by the guerrillas. Zambians living along the border with Mozambique have been urged to report any suspicious people to security forces. Zambian officials say MNR fighters sometime cross into Zambia in search of food, clothing, and other supplies.

SOUTH AFRICA

President Botha Speaks on SADF Anniversary

MB061248 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1243 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Cape Town, April 6, SAPA — South Africa was not a nation of weaklings nor a "third-rate little republic" but faced adversity from a position of strength, the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, said today.

Speaking at a parade at Three Anchor Bay marking the 75th anniversary of the SADF, he said South Africans should remember on this Founder's Day that they were descendants of "brave and courageous men and women — pioneers in Africa."

These were pioneers who brought "civilisation where there was barbarism, peace where there was genocide and bloodshed, freedom where there was colonialism."

South Africa was still a country of brave and courageous men and women. It had the strongest economy and the finest defence force in Africa. "We do not seek to use that defence force for aggression. We seek peace in Africa. We seek stability. We seek cooperation and friendship with all our neighbours in Africa.

"There must, however, be no doubt; if others are seeking our downfall we shall fight with all the power at our disposal for the preservation of our heritage, for the safety of our communities and for a peaceful future for all in our country," Mr Botha said.

Mr Botha said the SADF had to always be in a state of perpetual readiness against the threat of expansionism and aggression and terrorism in southern Africa.

It was a great cause for concern that such a large number of politicians in Western democracies were "either so gullible, intimidated, or anxious to climb onto a popular bandwagon," that they turned a blind eye to the manipulators of the anti-South African compaign.

"South Africa had always been willing to come to the help of her traditional Western allies in times of war.

"In the two world wars and the Korean War 25,000 South Africans paid the supreme penalty in the interests of Western civilisation and world peace."

But when peace was threatened in Angola the West turned its back. "Now that the values of civilisation are threatened in our region, many in the West look on with folded arms.

"Let there be no illusions about the fact that if communism wins its present battle in southern Africa, Western civilisation itself will be placed in jeopardy.

"From our point of view there can only be one response: We must remain steadfast in our dedication to peace, freedom and civilisation."

Mr Botha said as minister of defence he had presonally warned since 1966 that the onslaught on "almost every aspect of our national life" would escalate and that South Africans had to be prepared "not only militarily but also in other respects."

The SADF was in the frontline keeping watch day and night to ensure that the country's borders were as secure as possible and that its people of all races could sleep safely at night and continue their daily work. The SADF was in daily contact with other security forces and this cooperation guaranteed South Africa's strength.

Referring to the "international character" of the onslaught against South Africa, he said SWAPO and the ANC were the primary enemy "and must be confronted and eliminated."

"But behind them are a variety of international forces that seek the downfall of freedom and order in South Africa.

"Communist countries actively finance, train and supply military weapons to SWAPO and the ANC, but they also have their own designs on our country."

Mr Botha said that in terms of the Constitution, the state president held supreme control (voer die oppergesag) over the SADF.

"It is in that capacity that I speak out with confidence in the future."

Commentary Notes SADF Service

MB070552 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] It is perhaps appropriate that, while South Africans were relaxing at their homes or at pleasure resorts on Founder's Day yesterday, tribute was being paid at a parade in Cape Town to the South African Defense Force, which was founded 75 years ago. It is the responsibility of the Defense Force, while the nation is at work or at play or asleep at night, to be on constant vigilance in order to protect and safeguard the public. [passage omitted]

Today, South African soldiers are engaged in a counterinsurgency war on our far-flung borders; and they are maintaining the Defense Force's record of never having lost a war. Once again, black volunteers are playing a vital role in the defense of freedom. Twenty-four percent of the permanent force is composed of black, colored, and Indian volunteers. In all, members of these population groups constitute 44 percent of the full-time employees of the Defense Force.

The courage and the heroism lives on, too. Since the first Honoris Crux was awarded in 1973 about 140 members of the Defense Force have received this award for bravery.

The Defense Force also renders service to the community in many other fields such as education, training, and agricultural extension services, as well as medical and veterinary services. At times of emergency or disaster, the Defense Force is in action immediately; whether it be a flash flood or a forest fire; or whether it be called upon to mount search and rescue missions on land or sea.

Today, the South African Defense Force demonstrates the same qualities that have characterized its first 75 years: preparedness for all eventualities, dedication to all communities, and effectiveness in its actions and operations.

No Sign of Break in Railway Workers Strike

MB070726 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2240 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg April 6 SAPA — The marathon railway strike dragged into its fourth week today with no sign of either side budging to resolve the stoppage.

SATS PRO [South African Transport Services Public Relations Officer] Mr Jannie van Zyl said the stalemate in the dispute continued today with 13,000 workers at 80 railway depots on the Witwatersrand and in Vereeniging still out.

The war of words that erupted after negotations broke down last week also continued with SATS accusing the SA Railway and Harbour Workers Union (SARHWU) of trying to "overthrow the status quo not only of the SATS but also other industries of our economy."

Mr van Zyl said the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) had singled out the railways as sector of the economy where the policy of "one industry one union" should be implemented.

"SARHWU, the instrument of COSATU in this instance, had earmarked SATS of being out of touch (sic) with modern industrial relations and of negating the principle of freedom of association," he said.

"However, looking at COSATU's aims one can only conclude that its aim of one union per industry represents a point of view which is not only contrary to the principle of freedom of association but also very far removed from modern industrial relations."

Last week COSATU said SATS was forcing its own in-house union onto workers while refusing to negotiate with SARHWU, which represents the majority of strikers.

COSATU General Secretary Mr Jay Naidoo said this, together with SATS threat to employ white workers in place of striking blacks, was indicative of "racist" practices that were heightening tensions during the dispute.

Mr Naidoo later telexed the minister of transport affairs, Mr Eli Louw, asking him to intervene to end the strike. He also offered the services of COSATU to help resolve the issue.

"COSATU, initiator of the one union idea, now offers to act as mediator in the dispute between SATS and the strking workers.

How could management even consider such a proposal when the cause of the strike can be traced back to SARHWU an affiliate of COSATU," said Mr van Zyl.

"COSATU'S call on Assocom [Association of Chambers of Commerce] and FCI [Federated Chamber of Industries] to exert pressure on SATS to prevent the strike from spreading is obviously aimed at getting as much mileage out of the situation as possible. Hopefully this call will not succeed, as many of the industries represented by these bodies are also on COSATU's agenda."

A spokesman for SARHWU was not immediately available for comment tonight.

Transkei Defense Chief Mtirara Resigns

MB061510 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1505 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Umtata April 6 SAPA — The commander in chief of the Transkei Defence Force [TDF], Gen Zondwa Mtirara, has resigned and about 28 former Selous Scouts who acted as advisers in the TDF were deported at the weekend.

Although Gen Mtirara's resignation could not be confirmed by government officials during the long weekend in Transkei, it was reported to have been submitted on April 1 and "immediately approved," SAPA's correspondent reports.

Among those deported was the former commander of the TDF, Gen Ron Reid-Daly.

SAPA's correspondent also reported that Gen Mtirara, before submitting his resignation, felt the TDF was "receiving instructions from a certain Transkei politician other than Prime Minister George Matanzima."

In another development the TDF second-in-command, Brig H. B. Holomisa, was released from detention barracks on orders from Premier Matanzima.

Information Bureau Issues 6 Apr Unrest Report

MB070642 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0637 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria April 7 SAPA — The Bureau for Information's unrest report for 24 hours to midnight April 6:

"Unrest-related incidents reported during the above mentioned period comprised isolated stonings. In each of three of these incidents, a black man was arrested. No injuries were reported and damage was indicated as being minimal."

Press Review, Report on Langa Township Removal

MB070714 [Editorial Report]

STAR: Urbanization Policy of Forced Removals

"Langa, the Eastern Cape township where 20 people died two years ago when police opened fire on a funeral crowd, is no more. It has been wiped off the Uitenhage map by forced removal" to KwaNobhuhle writes Jo-anne Collinge on page 8 of Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 6 April. "The destruction of Langa in the second half of last year came just months after the government adopted its 'orderly urbanisation' policy. It provides some clues as to what the practical meaning of the new policy is — and what it is not." Collinge believes that the orderly settlement "does not necessarily relate to better health protection" since "a team of experts, including doctors, visited KwaNobhuhle's tent town at the end of the removal and said the area was a 'time bomb' healthwise." According to the claims of uprooted residents "orderly urbanisation may be a close relative of forced removals." "Repression and violence may in some cases be necessary adjuncts of 'orderly' urbanisation. Until the state of emergency was declared the Langa community resisted removal in a peaceful but solid way. They defended court action against them. They commissioned experts to draw up an upgrade plan for their old shack town. They negotiated with government officials at all junctures. The removal began weeks before the Supreme Court case was settled and only after the entire leadership of Langa had been detained under the emergency."

Monday 6 April was a national holiday in the Republic of South Africa — Armed Forces Day — and most newspapers did not publish.

ZIMBABWE

Mozambique's Guebuza Discusses Limpopo Corridor

MB061741 Harare Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] The Mozambican minister of transport and communications, Comrade Armando Guebuza, has said a multimillion dollar rehabilitation program of the Limpopo corridor is to start soon. Speaking at a news conference at the Harare International Airport shortly before his departure for Maputo, Comrade Guebuza said Britain had agreed to finance part of the rehabilitation program. However, the Mozambican minister, who arrived in Harare last week, did not disclose the cost of the project.

Earlier, the Mozambican minister laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier at the National Hero's Acre in Harare. During his visit, Comrade Guebuza held talks with his Zimbabwean counterpart, Comrade Herbert Ushewokunze, on a number of issues, including the Beira corridor. He also held discussions with officials of the Grain Producers Association.

VII.	WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
VIII.	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include: International Affairs Inter-African Affairs Central Africa Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Rwanda Sao Tome & Principe Zaire East Africa Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Somalia Tanzania Uganda Indian Ocean Comoros Madagascar Mauritius Seychelles Southern Africa Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia Republic of South Africa Reunion Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe Western Africa Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Islands The Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Ivory Coast Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo

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